

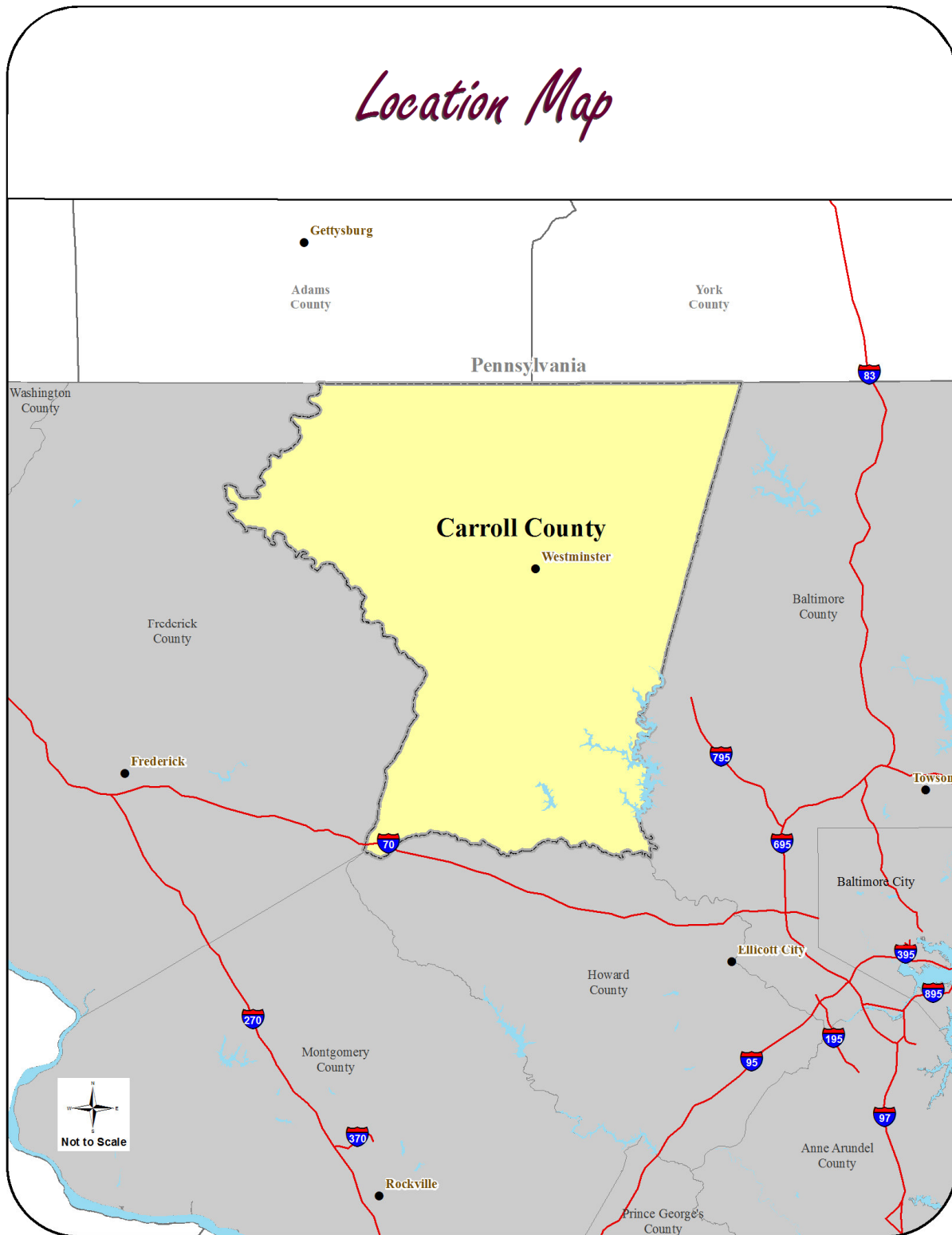
# L P P R P



## Land Preservation, Parks, and Recreation Plan - June 2017



## Welcome to Carroll County Maryland





# 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

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## Introduction to the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan

### Purpose of the Plan

The State of Maryland requires that counties update Land Preservation, Park and Recreation Plans (LPPRP) every five (5) years prior to the revision of the statewide Maryland Land Preservation, Park and Recreation Plan. The LPPRP qualifies local government for State Program Open space (POS) grants and other programs related to three land resource elements:

- Recreation and parks
- Agricultural land preservation
- Natural resource conservation

This 2017 LPPRP has been developed in accordance with the guidelines developed in 2015 by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

The primary purpose for the 2017 Carroll County Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan is to identify future needs and priorities for parks, recreation and open space acquisition and development. These needs and priorities serve as a guide for land acquisition and capital investment in the County's Community Investment Program.

The 2017 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan (LPPRP) will:

- Review the goals and objectives of state and local programs for Parks and Recreation, Agriculture and Natural Resources;
- Identify the implementation programs and funding strategies for each element to achieve related goals and objectives;
- Identify possible improvements to policies, plans, and funding strategies to better achieve goals and improve return on public investment;
- Identify the needs and priorities of the current and future state and local population for outdoor recreation;
- Ensure that public investment in land preservation and recreation is consistent with local comprehensive plans, State Planning Policy, and state and local programs that influence land use and development.

### Local Agency Preparation of the LPPRP

Carroll County Government is responsible for the preparation of this LPPRP. The plan is the result of a collaborative effort between departments led by the Carroll County Department of Recreation and Parks with assistance from the Carroll County Department of Planning and Carroll County Department of Land and Resource Management.

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## LPPRP Relationship to the Comprehensive Planning Process

The 2017 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan is based upon the goals and priorities established in the 2014 county master plan, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in February of 2015.

Additionally, it incorporates goals and actions recommended in the comprehensive plan for the county's nine (9) Designated Growth Areas and eight (8) municipalities. These include:

- Finksburg Corridor Plan (adopted 2013)
- Freedom Community Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2001, currently under review)
- Hampstead Community Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2010)
- Manchester Comprehensive Plan & Environs (adopted 2009)
- Mount Airy Environs (adopted 2006)
- Mount Airy Town Master Plan (adopted 2014)
- New Windsor Community Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2007, amended 2010)
- Taneytown Community Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2010)
- Town of Union Bridge Master Plan (adopted 2009, amended 2009 & 2010)
- Westminster Environs Community Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2007)
- City of Westminster Comprehensive Plan (adopted 2009)

**Carroll County has a total area of 453 square miles (287,900 acres) including 1.1% (5.1 square miles) of water**

The 2017 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan draws from the county plans that already have been adopted or are in the process of being updated. Chief among these documents is the Carroll County 2014 Master Plan which was adopted on February 26, 2015. This LPPRP has been prepared to be consistent with related comprehensive plan policies, goals and objectives and future plan updates will include reviews of the LPPRP and recommendations for incorporating appropriate components.

## **General Overview**

### Geography

Located within the Piedmont Plateau region of central Maryland, Carroll County has a total area of 453 square miles (287,900 acres) including 1.1% (5.1 square miles) of water; and is characteristic upland terrain with rolling hills and deciduous forest. The most prominent relief is Parr's Ridge, which bisects the county from southwest to northeast. Carroll County is bordered on the north by the Mason–Dixon line with Pennsylvania, and on the south by Howard County across the South Branch of the Patapsco River. About half of the eastern border, with Baltimore County, is formed by the North Branch of the



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Patapsco River and by Liberty Reservoir, though the northern half near Manchester and Hampstead is a land border. Carroll County is bordered on the west by Frederick County, across the Monocacy River and Sam's Creek. Other major streams in the county include Big Pipe Creek, Little Pipe Creek, and Double Pipe Creek, Bear Branch, and the headwaters of the Gunpowder Falls. The Piney Run Reservoir is located in the southern part of the county.

### Population

Carroll County's population is currently 173,015\*, ranking ninth among Maryland's twenty-four counties. Carroll County also has the eighth highest median household income of \$85,532. Carroll County places a high value on education as 92.3% of adults 25 and older are high school graduates and 32.7% have a Bachelor's Degree or higher level of education. As a result of Carroll County's convenient access to both Baltimore and Washington D.C., approximately 55% of the civilian work force commutes outside the county to work. The three largest ethnic groups by percentage of total population are White (92.6%), African American (3.6%) and Hispanic (3.2%)\*\*.

\*Carroll County Department of Planning 2016 population estimate \*\*United States Census Bureau

The Maryland Department of Planning projects a population of 175,900 in 2020, 179,450 in 2025 and 183,250 in 2030. Population growth will continue to be concentrated in the County's nine designated growth areas. While the County's overall population continues to steadily increase, there has been a recent decline in school age population, coupled with a growing senior population. Over time this change in the distribution of the County's population will impact parks and recreation needs. Of particular note, the population of age 65 and over will increase by over 19,400 by 2030 and comprise 25% of the population compared with 16% in 2015.

### Population Projections by Age 2015 and 2030

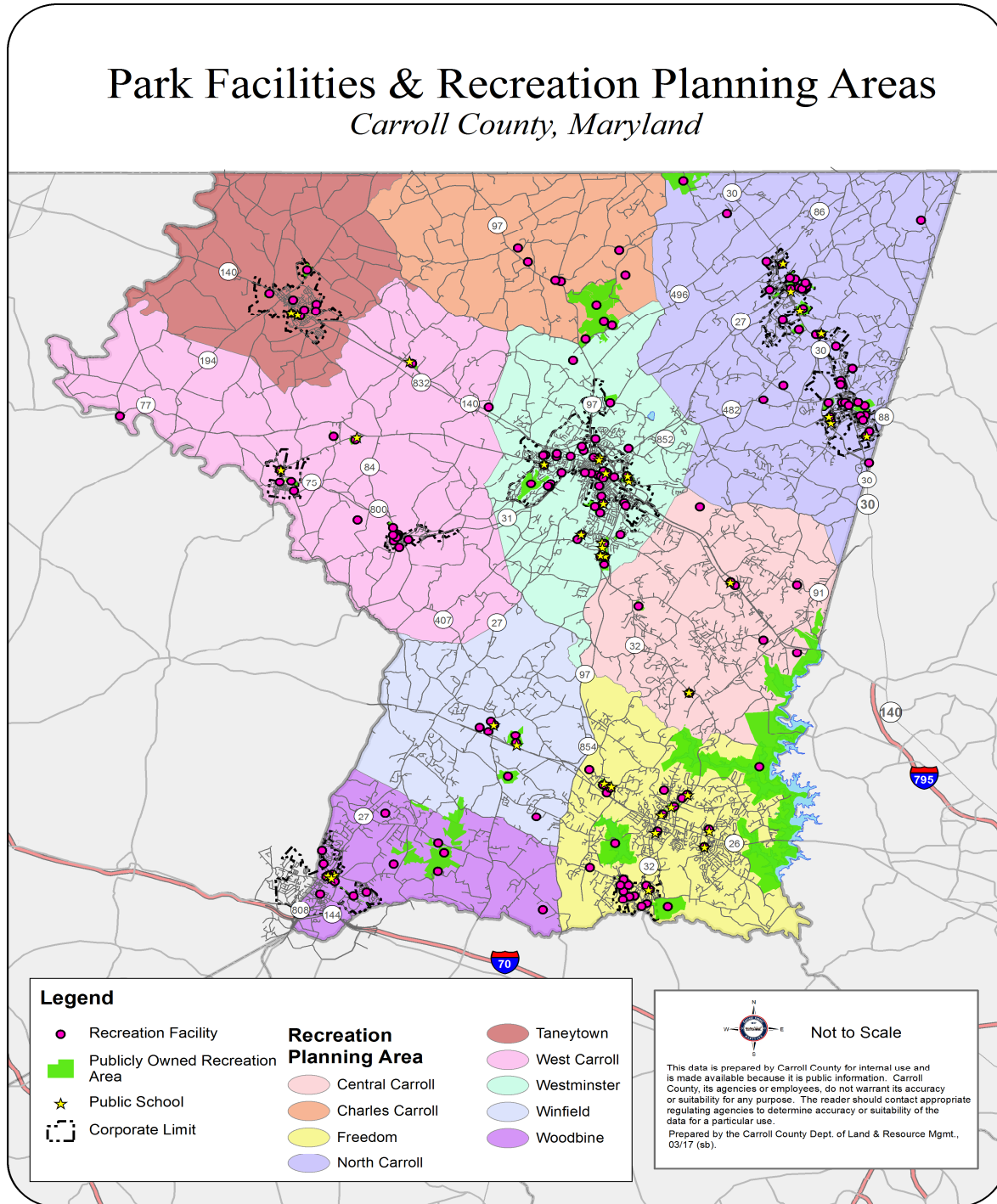
Age	2015		2030	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0-19	41,982	25%	42,294	23%
20-64	100,088	59%	95,067	52%
65+	26,479	16%	45,889	25%

### Public Parks & Recreation Facilities, Preserved Natural Resources and Agricultural Land

Carroll County has a diverse local park system that is actively managed to provide numerous benefits to residents and visitors. In addition, undeveloped open space and wildlife habitat is protected at natural resource protected areas. Finally, Carroll County has long been a leader in the preservation of agricultural land with 70,091 acres permanently preserved for farming as of December, 2016. The following pages include maps of each of these areas enjoyed by residents

# 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

## MAP # 2 - Park Facilities & Recreation Planning Areas

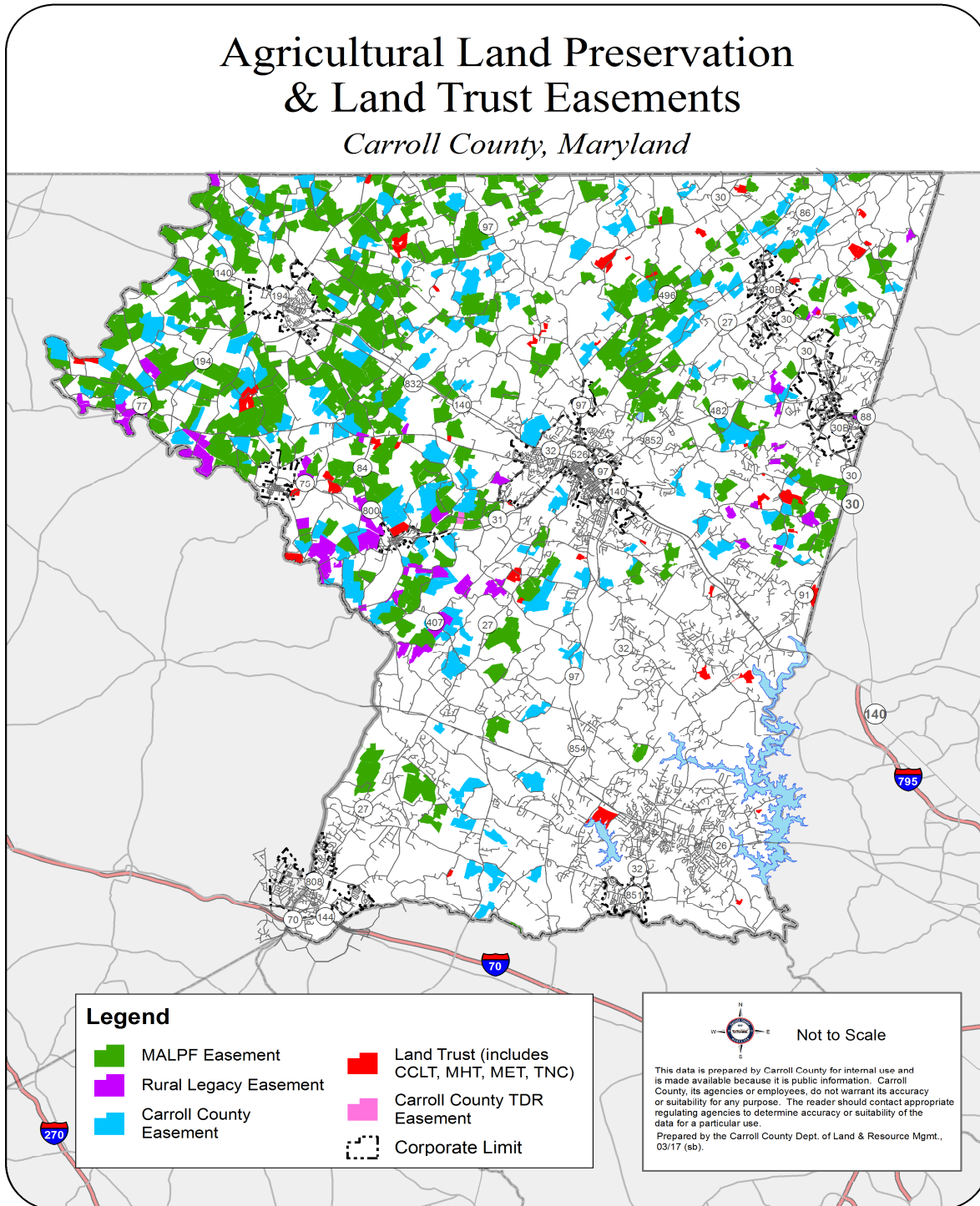


2017 Recreation Facilities interactive Map/inventory data Hyperlink - <https://carrollco-md.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5a9afdbc80d7416097568fa4ed859ae2>



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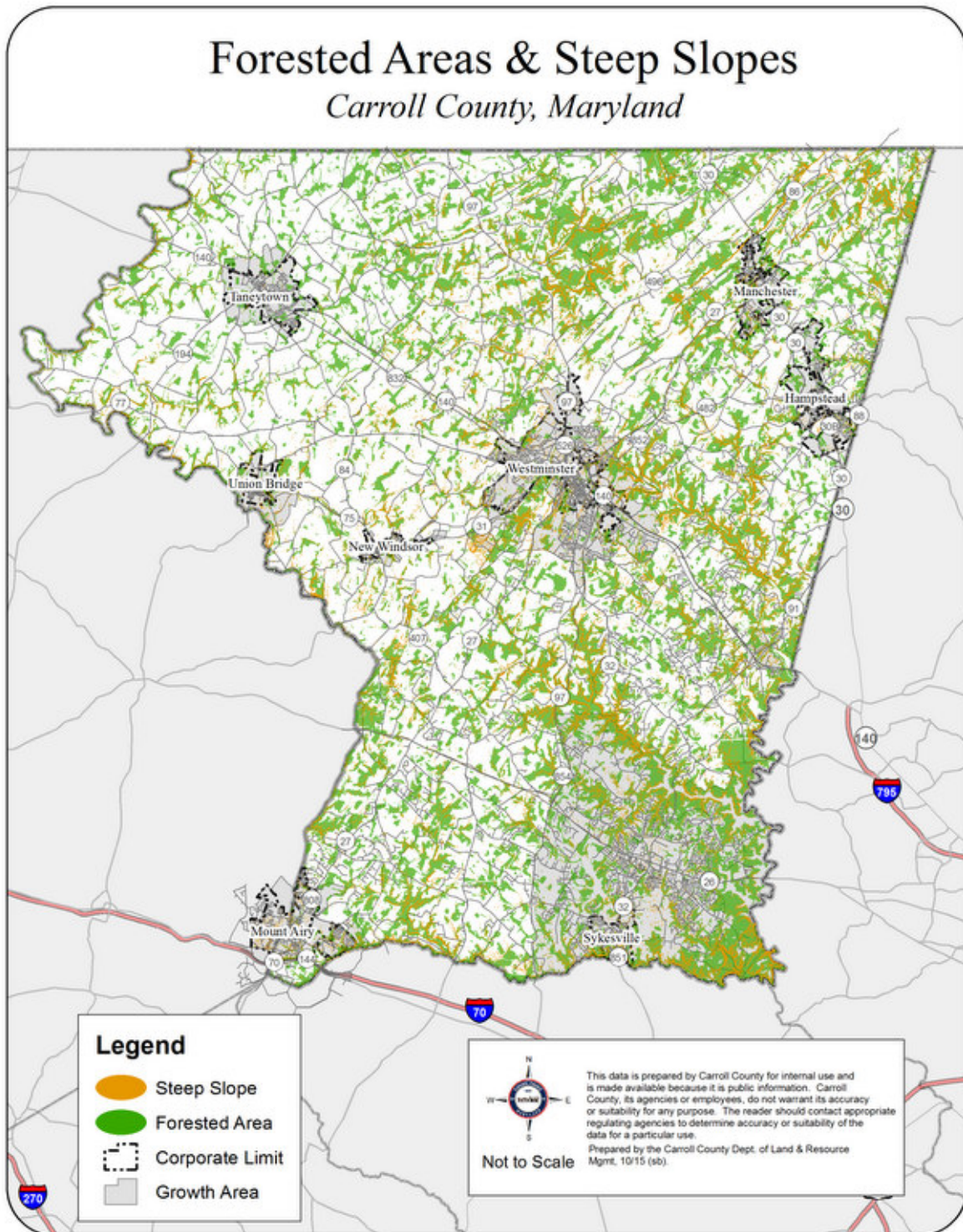
## MAP # 3 - Ag Preservation, Rural Legacy, and Land Trust Easements



<https://carrollco-md.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5a9afdbc80d7416097568fa4ed859ae2>

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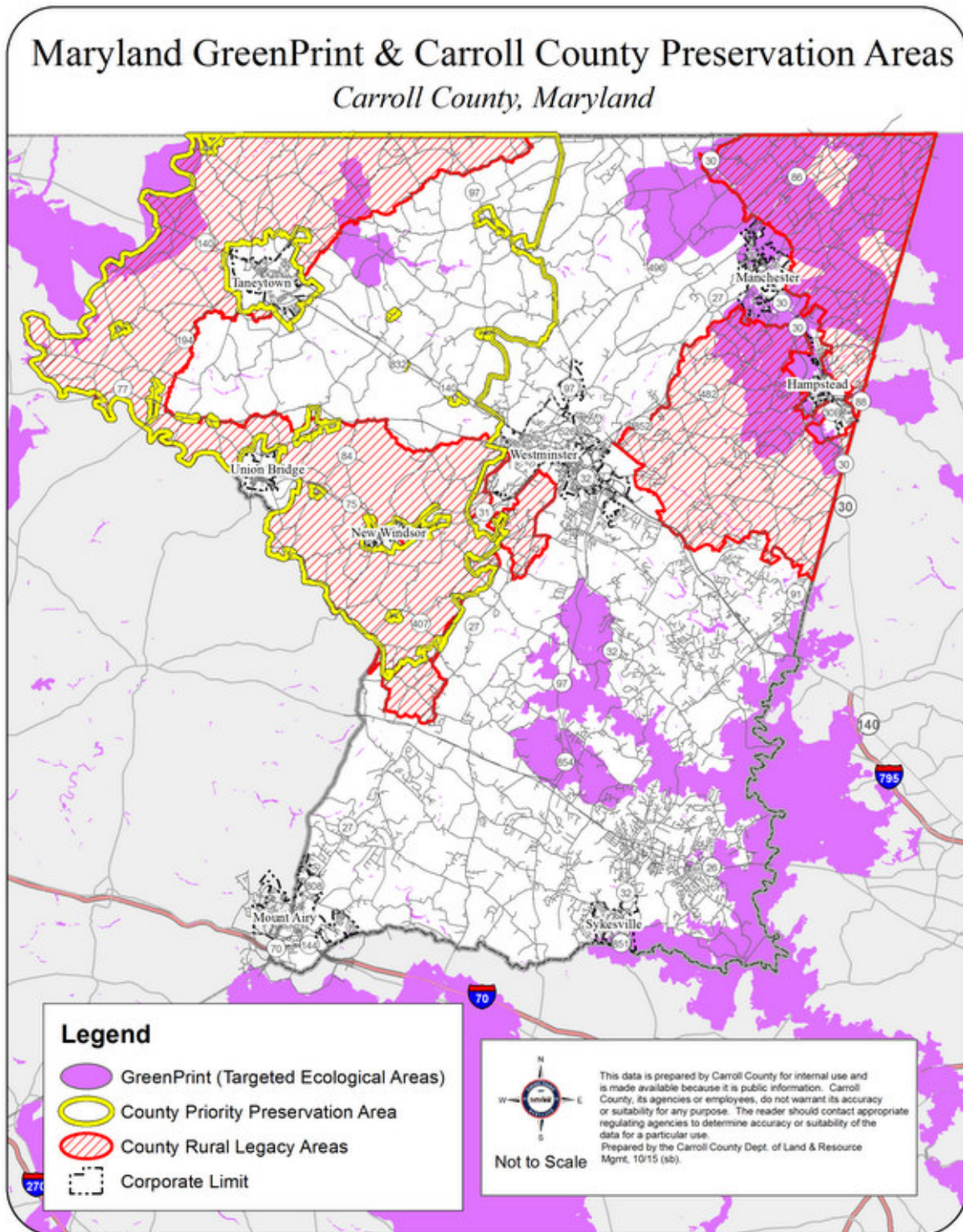
MAP # 4 - Forested Steep Slope Areas



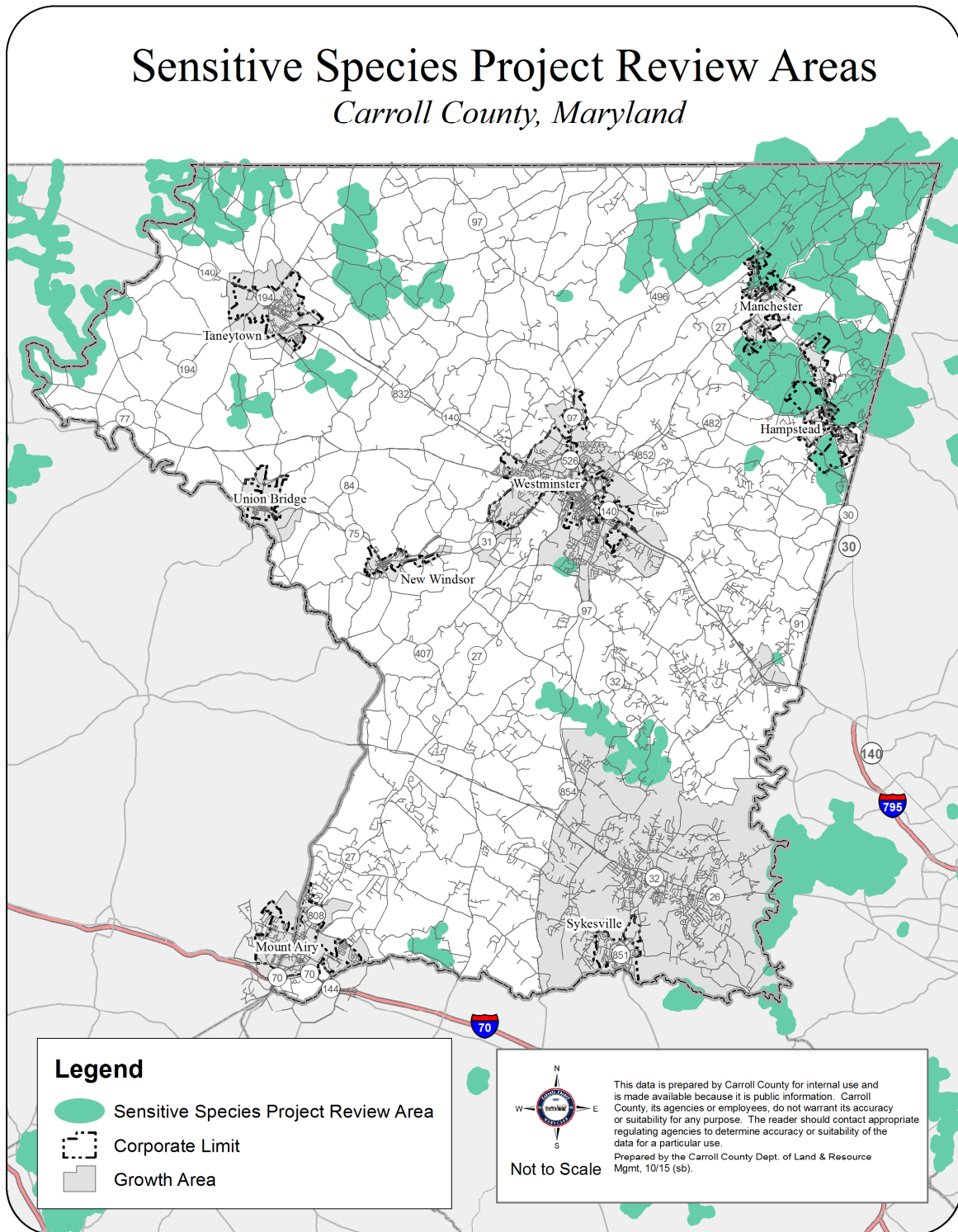


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Map # 5 – Maryland GreenPrint Preservation Areas

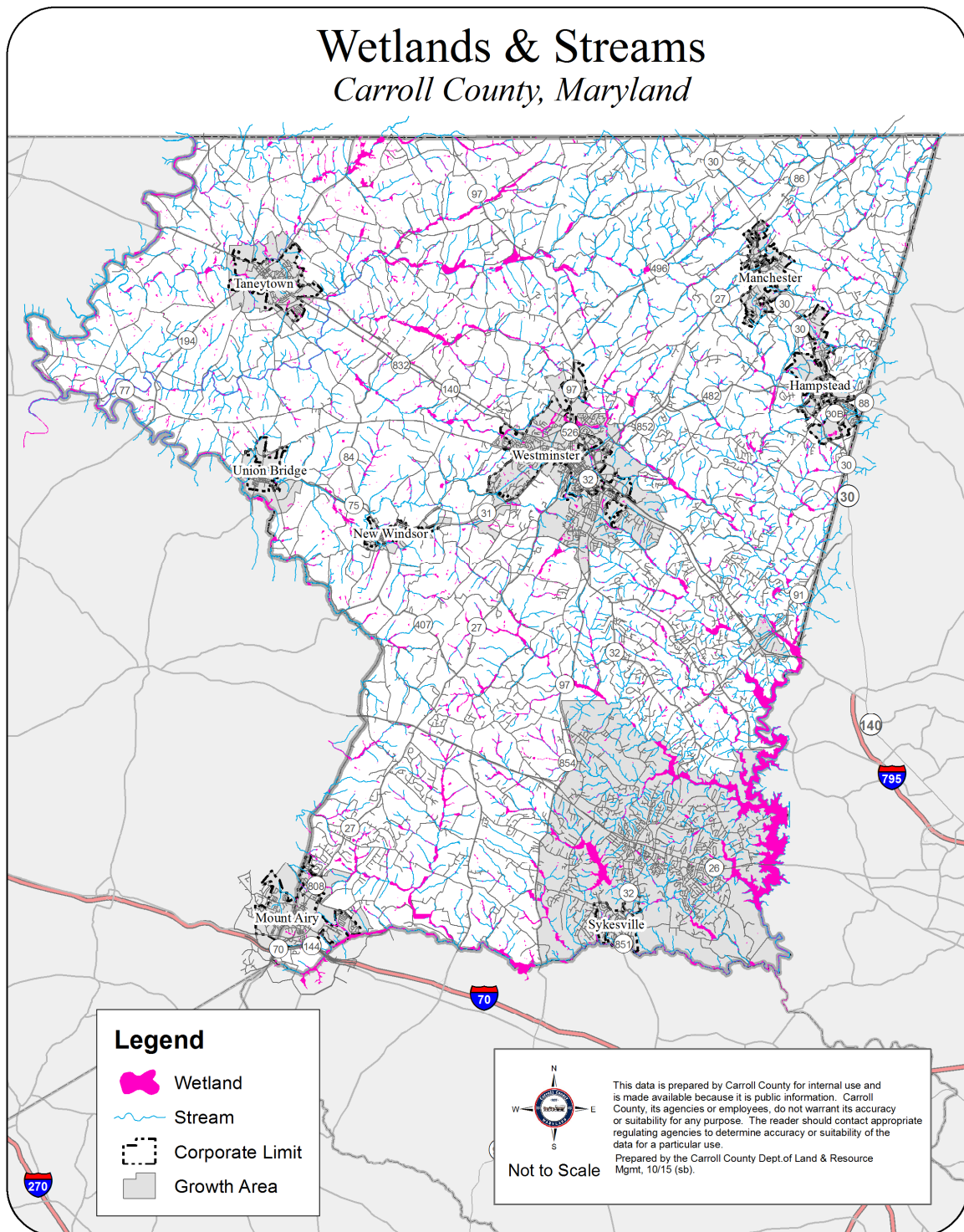


Map # 6 – Sensitive Species Areas



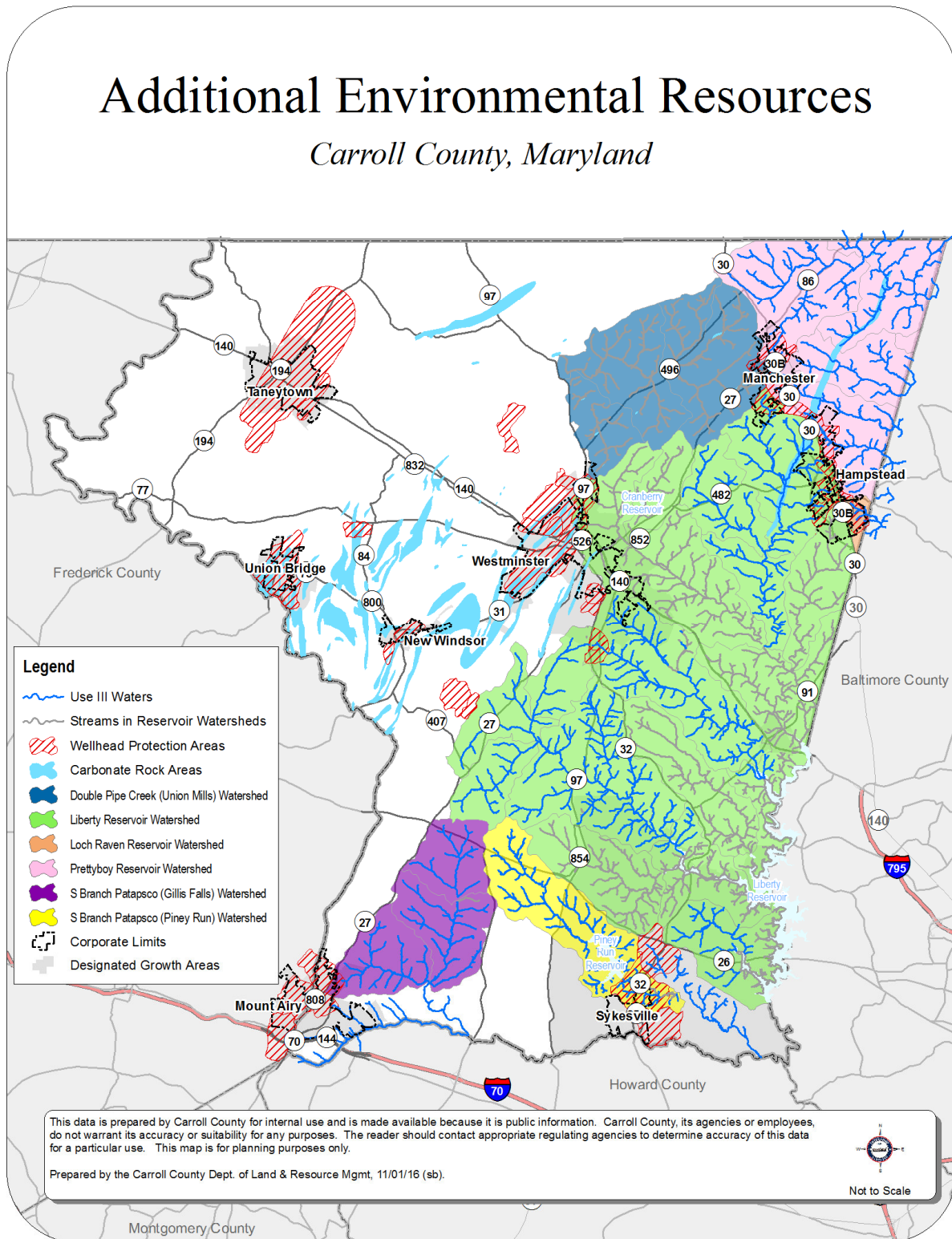


Map # 7 – Wetlands and streams



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## MAP # 8 – Additional Environmental Resources Areas



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## Parks and Recreation

### Overview of Parks and Recreation System in Carroll County, MD

Carroll County has approximately 8,005 acres of publically owned lands available to residents for various types of recreational activities. These open spaces range from scenic, natural places to high activity parks. Included in this acreage are public schools sites whose playing fields are used by the entire community; reservoir areas that feature hiking, fishing, mountain biking, equestrian and other recreational opportunities; state park lands in the County and municipal parks. All told these opportunities provide nearly 47 acres of park land per 1,000 residents.



Many of the acres considered park land or open space are either existing or proposed school sites or existing or planned public water supply areas, the acreage around which is protected to ensure high quality drinking water. This has created the opportunity to develop low-impact recreational facilities, such as boating areas, hiking trails, picnic areas and multi-use trails enjoyed by equestrians and mountain bikers on the land surrounding the future reservoirs. A similar benefit has been derived from school properties which by their nature include athletic fields, playgrounds and other recreational areas. The County's citizens are able to benefit from and use these sites as part of a joint use agreement between the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Board of Education.

Large park facilities in the county may offer multiple amenities including trails and or athletic fields which are co-located with other types of recreational activity areas at a single site. Numerous smaller parks provide single fields and individual playgrounds on smaller sites with facilities sized to neighborhood scale.

The Carroll County Board of Commissioners delegates oversight responsibility for planning, developing and implementing the recreation and parks program to an appointed Recreation and Parks Advisory Board that works cooperatively with the County's Department of Recreation and Parks. The County Commissioners retain approval authority for plans and funding recommended by the Advisory Board.

The purpose of the Advisory Board is to study and determine the park, recreation and open space needs of the County and serve as an advisory board providing recommendations to the County Commissioners on matters pertaining to the planning, programming, evaluating and funding of park and recreation facilities and programs.

Planning, land acquisition and facility development responsibilities are within the Department of Recreation and Parks with recommendations provided by the Advisory Board.



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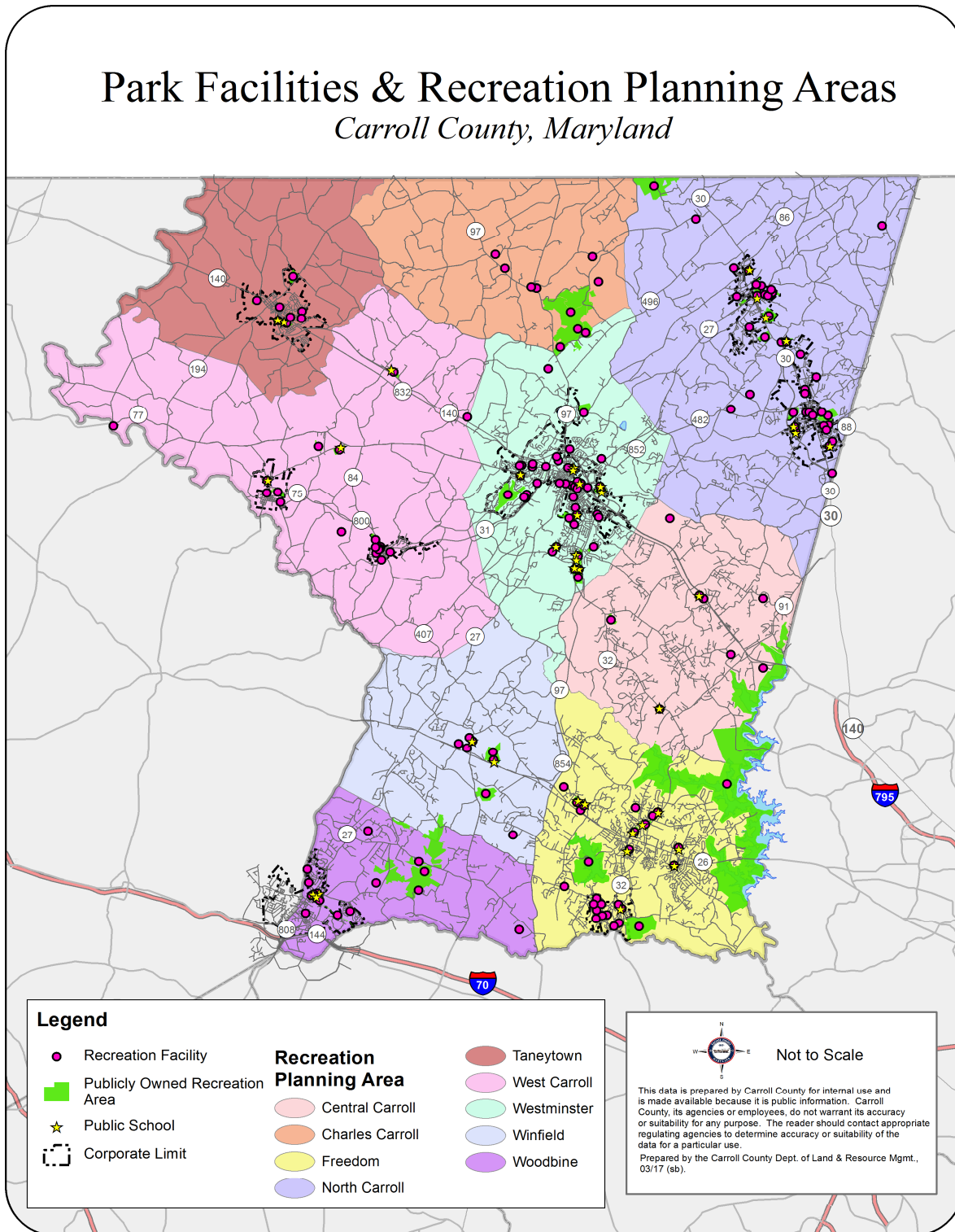
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The Department of Recreation and Parks consists of the following divisions: Administration, Bureau of Parks and the Bureau of Recreation. The Department employs 26 full time staff and numerous part-time and seasonal employees and program instructors. The Department also utilizes the services of volunteers to fill over 10,000 unpaid positions in support of programs and park operations. The Bureau of Recreation coordinates athletic field use and scheduling at County parks and schools.

Sports and other program opportunities are offered through the County's volunteer recreation councils with administrative support from the Department. The recreation councils meet on a regular basis and are tasked with providing activities where there is local need and support. The eleven recreation councils include eight that serve geographic communities and three that serve a county wide interest or need (Arts, Equestrian and Seniors). In addition to recreation council activities, the Bureau of Recreation publishes quarterly program guides, offering several hundred additional programs each year including many non-sports programs, activities for adults and seniors and therapeutic recreation opportunities.

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## MAP # 2 - Park Facilities & Recreation Planning Areas



2017 Recreation Facilities interactive Map/inventory data Hyperlink - <https://carrollco-md.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5a9afdbc80d7416097568fa4ed859ae2>

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The Bureau of Parks manages the operation of the County's major park facilities including Piney Run Park, Hashawha Environmental Center and the Hap Baker Firearms Facility which collectively have a cost recovery goal of 80% of their approved operating budgets. Each of these facilities provides a higher service level (ex. staffing, flush toilets/running water, etc.) than the remaining community or neighborhood parks.

### Major Accomplishments

Carroll County Department of Recreation and Parks have experienced a number of major accomplishments over its 45 year history including the following:

- Carroll County has surpassed the Maryland state goal of 30 acres per 1,000 residents; Carroll County currently has 8,005 acres of parks and recreation lands (47 acres/ 1,000 residents).
- The Department continues to foster and maintain significant public participation through its volunteer recreation councils raise and spend over \$4.5 million annually in support of their programs and feature the efforts of over 10,000 volunteers annually
- Public funding is successfully leveraged with fees, sponsorship, donations and recreation council funds exceeding \$6 million in 2015, more than doubling the Recreation and Parks operating budget of \$2.39 million

### Major Challenges

Despite its many successes, Carroll County continues to experience a number of challenges including the following:

- Maintaining existing park infrastructure
- Past diversions or delays of Program Open Space funding have resulted in projects, such as Krimgold and Leister Parks, that were initiated to address growth from the late 1990's and 2000's from being fully completed
- Economic downturn and slow residential growth due to limited availability of water have greatly reduced the stream of impact fee funding for park development
- Supporting continued high level of volunteerism in a bedroom community where many people commute to work and have less time to volunteer
- As county's demographics continue to change, department will need to balance efforts to meet new needs of citizens while still attempting to catch up with previous growth



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## Benefits (Active & Passive Recreation)

### Environmental

- Promote environmental stewardship as a means of supporting a strong, healthy natural environment
- Successful history of providing quality environmental education at nature centers, environmental center, planetarium and observatory
- Provide habitat to support native plants and animals



### Economic

- Promoted increased property values for homes near park locations
- Provide employment opportunities for over 60 instructors annually through Department's Community Recreation Programs
- Recreation council instructors for programs such as dance, karate and fitness can convert part time employment into locally owned small businesses after building a clientele
- Over 60 events held annually that attract out of town visitors, positively impacting local tourism
- Develop and promote outdoor recreation facilities (trails, fishing, biking, etc.) that support eco-tourism in the County



### Health

- Playgrounds offer children opportunities to learn social interaction, decision making, coordination and problem solving skills
- Studies support providing connections to nature relieves stress, strengthens interpersonal relationships and improves mental health
- Readily available recreational opportunities for all ages and abilities leads to higher rates of physical activity and lower health care expenditures
- Recreation and parks stimulates citizens' minds with programs that teach or improve registrants' knowledge and skills
- Designation of county parks as tobacco free supports healthier lifestyle choices





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## Community Conditions That Impact Parks and Recreation

Consistent with state planning goals and objectives, Carroll County continues to focus the majority of growth in its designated growth areas, including its eight municipalities. With the majority of its development concentrated in these areas, the majority of public recreational facilities and schools are located there as well.

Because of the County's rich heritage of farming and its nationally recognized agricultural preservation program, numerous large tracts of undeveloped land exist outside of the designated growth areas. As a result, residents living in these areas must travel further to access schools, libraries, shopping centers and often parks. Furthermore, many of these homes are located in areas where there is not only no sidewalk but also narrow two lane roads that do not support safe bicycle or pedestrian travel. Because of that, these citizens likely need access to a vehicle to reach community destinations, including parks.

Because of its proximity to the Baltimore and Washington markets, Carroll County has developed into a popular bedroom community where residents enjoy lower taxes, excellent schools and a high quality of life while commuting to jobs outside the County. As a result, it remains a challenge to maintain the volunteer recreation council system as both parents and prospective volunteer coaches spend considerable time on the road and may not be available for games and practices.

## Goals and Objectives for Recreation and Parks

### Recreation and Parks Facilities, Services and Benefits Provided

#### Types of Public Park and Recreation Facilities

- Special County Facilities (Regional facilities that feature higher service levels and are supported by on-site staff and a dedicated operating budget; Piney Run Park, Carroll County Sports Complex, Hashawha Environmental Center, Hap Baker Firearms Facility). These facilities offer the highest service levels and are dependent on user fees to help offset operating expenses
- County Community Parks (Typically 20+ acre parks that include a combination of active and passive amenities such as athletic fields, trails, playgrounds, picnic facilities, etc.) These facilities typically have a lower service level and are not staffed, relying on significant support from the volunteer recreation councils that use them
- County Neighborhood Parks (Typically less than 20 acres in size and usually limited to passive amenities such as playgrounds and picnic facilities). These facilities have a lower service level and typically do not have a local recreation council associated with their regular use and maintenance.
- School Recreation Centers (typically feature indoor usage of gymnasiums, cafeterias, classrooms, athletic fields, tennis courts)



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- County Natural Resource Protection Areas
- County Undeveloped Parkland
- Additional public recreational facilities provide by municipalities
- Services/Benefits Provided to the Public
- Natural Resource Protection
- Water Recharge
- Health/Fitness opportunities
- Social benefits
- Support economic developments through hosting of special events, positive impact on property values & home ownership
- Why is providing these services important?

### **County Parks and Recreation Goals**

Carroll County's goal for parks and recreation is to provide an affordable, coordinated and comprehensive system of public and private parks, recreational facilities and programs, and open space that will enhance its communities.

While the vast majority of emphasis is placed on public facilities, the presence of privately owned facilities such as swimming pools and indoor sports arenas help to supplement those public facilities. Furthermore, recreation council programs offer affordable programs such as indoor lacrosse and soccer that take place in private facilities using rented space.

Consistent with State goals, the County goals, policies, strategies and funding emphasize providing recreational opportunities for all citizens while at the same time, directing most of the effort to provide these opportunities towards those which have the greatest population concentration. These are the county's nine designated growth areas, planning for which is done through individual comprehensive plans. Parks, recreational facilities, and open space are recognized in the goals of these plans, as well as those of the county Master Plan, as essential components of quality living environments, just as they are in the State goals. Appropriately, and consistent with the State goals, funding for recreational projects primarily is directed towards these designated growth areas in order to fulfill the goals of the plans and serve the greatest number of people.

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## State Parks and Recreation Goals

Maryland has identified the following goals for parks and recreation:

- Make a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily accessible to all of its citizens and thereby contribute to their physical and mental well-being
- Recognize and strategically use parks and recreation facilities as amenities to make communities, counties and the state more desirable places to live, work, play and visit
- Use state investment in parks, recreation and open space to complement and mutually support the broader goals and objectives of local comprehensive/master plans.
- To the greatest degree feasible, ensure that recreational land and facilities for local populations are conveniently located relative to population centers, are accessible without reliance on the automobile and help to protect natural open spaces and resources
- Complement infrastructure and other public investments and priorities in existing communities and areas planned for growth through investment in neighborhood and community parks and facilities
- Continue to protect recreational open space and resource lands at a rate that equals or exceeds the rate that land is developed at a statewide level

## Implementing Programs

Carroll County utilizes a number of tools for providing parks, recreational facilities and programs, and open space. Chief among them are: planning; land acquisition and facility development; impact fees; designated open space, set asides and facilities as required by zoning and the subdivision process; joint use agreements; area recreation councils; and special facilities.

### Planning

Open space, park and recreational facility planning is reaffirmed in the County Master Plan and the various community comprehensive plans, all of which are undertaken by the county Department of Planning. As these plans are developed, accepted, approved and adopted, so is the Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan by reference in these documents.

The County Master Plan and community comprehensive plans contain goals and strategies related to the provision of open space, parks, and recreational facilities that are pulled from the Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan. Because these local planning initiatives have significant public input opportunities, ranging from community outreach meetings to formal public hearings, they help to reaffirm these goals and strategies.

In the County Master Plan, the emphasis is on making sure regional facilities are adequate to meet the County's needs and to maintain the County and State goal for preserving open space on a large scale,



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while in the community comprehensive plans the focus is on making sure the specific needs of a local population are met. These plans make recommendations for the LPPRP to incorporate as well as supporting the LPPRP's goals, objectives and recommendations. The 2014 Carroll County Master Plan's *Chapter 11: Parks* lays out the parks and recreation Goal for the County and uses supporting information from the 2012 LPPRP. Pages 86 & 87 of the 2014 Carroll County Master Plan reference the 2012 LPPRP goals and projects plans for meeting 2012 goals. Some examples of progress in meeting these goals are listed on pages 29-30.

Planning for parks and recreational facilities in Carroll County meets the twelve visions of State Planning Policy by focusing on providing most of the parks and recreational facilities in and around the community planning areas, where the largest population concentrations exist. Parks and recreational facilities outside of these areas are designed to meet countywide needs or to serve rural populations that do not fall within the service area of a designated growth area.

Occasionally, the Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan is supported by studies or reports that are not adopted but contribute to the implementation of the plan. Once the plan is adopted, identified projects are pursued through the capital programming process of the budget by being requested by one of the recreation councils, by Recreation and Parks staff, or through joint discussions between the Department of Recreation and Parks and the Department of Planning.

As municipal plans are developed, town and/or County staff coordinate with municipal parks and recreation staff or other stakeholders to identify the community's needs. Identified capital projects are funded through local CIPs for the most part, typically timed to coincide with the cyclical distribution of the POS money to the jurisdiction. This Plan, along with the County Master Plan, community comprehensive plans, and capital budgets will continue to be used as the primary tools for achieving parks and recreation goals and priorities.

### Land Acquisition and Facility Development

Land acquisition and facility development for parks and recreational facilities are funded through several sources. Program Open Space (POS) funds are combined with revenue collected from developer-paid impact fees and money from the County or municipal General Funds that is budgeted for capital projects through the Community Investment Plan (CIP).

In the County's FY 2017-2022 CIP, \$7,234,750 was budgeted for Culture and Recreation projects. The following table shows how the money is allocated for future years in both the current adopted and the proposed CIPs, and which sources of funding are anticipated.

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## COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Prior Allocation	Balance to Complete	Total Project Cost
<b>CULTURE AND RECREATION:</b>									
Bark Hill Park Improvements	\$0	\$486,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$486,000
Bear Branch Nature Center Roof Replacement	0	0	0	0	278,400	0	0	0	278,400
Bear Branch Tot Lot	116,700	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	116,700
Community Self-Help Projects	74,000	76,000	78,000	80,000	82,000	84,000	0	0	474,000
Deer Park and Sandymount Court Resurfacing	223,150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	223,150
Double Pipe Creek Bout Ramp	0	0	176,600	0	0	0	0	0	176,600
Gillis Falls Trail I	0	0	0	457,000	0	0	0	0	457,000
Indoor Track Shipley Arena	50,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50,000
Krimgold Tot Lot	80,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80,000
Mayeski Park Entrance Road Overlay	90,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90,000
Northwest County Trail Acquisition	0	0	0	0	200,000	0	0	0	200,000
Parkland Acquisition	200,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200,000
Park Restoration	309,600	163,400	167,200	171,200	175,300	179,500	0	0	1,166,200
Recreation and Parks Unallocated	25,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25,000
Sports Complex Lighting	0	0	0	370,000	320,000	523,500	0	0	1,213,500
Sports Complex Overlay	0	244,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	244,000
Tot Lot Replacement	55,000	57,750	60,650	63,670	66,850	70,200	0	0	374,120
Town Fund	7,950	10,030	12,200	12,800	13,300	13,800	0	0	70,080
Union Mills Buildings Renovations	0	150,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	150,000
Union Mills Main House Renovations	510,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	510,000
Westminster Veterans Memorial Park	150,000	0	500,000	0	0	0	3,407,596	0	4,057,596
<b>CULTURE AND RECREATION TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,891,400</b>	<b>\$1,187,180</b>	<b>\$994,650</b>	<b>\$1,154,670</b>	<b>\$1,135,850</b>	<b>\$871,000</b>	<b>\$3,407,596</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$10,642,346</b>
<b>SOURCES OF FUNDING:</b>									
Transfer from General Fund	\$579,365	\$279,605	\$263,465	\$307,367	\$305,125	\$284,320	\$100	\$0	\$2,019,347
Bonds	330,000	150,000	0	0	0	0	80,168	0	560,168
Reallocated GF Transfer	95,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	95,000
Impact Fee - Parks	160,670	184,000	159,000	160,000	180,000	130,000	605,000	0	1,578,670
Program Open Space	726,365	573,575	572,185	687,303	650,725	456,680	2,722,328	0	6,389,161
<b>CULTURE AND RECREATION TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,891,400</b>	<b>\$1,187,180</b>	<b>\$994,650</b>	<b>\$1,154,670</b>	<b>\$1,135,850</b>	<b>\$871,000</b>	<b>\$3,407,596</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$10,642,346</b>

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Approximately 60% of the County's FY2017-2022 capital budget for Culture and Recreation projects came from POS funds, about 19% came from the General Fund, and 15% came from development impact fees. Additionally, the County provides funding for town projects through its Town Fund line item, which is set aside to correlate with Program Open Space funds directed toward town projects. Program Open Space covers 90% of the cost of a project, the County covers 5% of the cost, and the town covers the remaining 5% of the cost. This money is allocated to each of the towns on a rotating basis determined by the Maryland Municipal League representatives. The CIP can be further summarized by noting that in years 2017-2022, \$400,000 is designated for acquisition, \$3,482,880 for development and \$3,351,870 for rehabilitation of existing park infrastructure.

Impact fees levied for new home construction account for a significant amount of revenue for the development of parks and recreational facilities. Impact fees generally are applied to projects that increase recreation and park inventory in response to growth. Funds from the General Fund typically go towards maintenance, repair, or replacement of recreational facilities and equipment. Currently, the parks and recreation impact fee is \$533 for single family homes, \$538 for mobile homes, \$604 for townhouses, and \$530 for multi-family units. This fee is charged for projects both in the county and in incorporated municipalities. Individual municipalities also charge additional parks and recreation impact fees.

Impact fees are collected by municipalities and allow for recreational facilities to be funded within the local jurisdiction where the impact from development is felt the most. create funding for park land to be developed and for recreational projects to be completed. All capital improvement projects in the County budget are funded by Program Open Space Funds, general fund, impact fees, or a combination of all three. The use of the impact fees because of development help to expand other infrastructure projects that are being constructed through the development process.

In recent years, the Department of Recreation and Parks has had success promoting its Park Legacy Fund which is designed to supplement public funding for park improvements. Over \$100,000 was received in donations in 2016 towards playground projects, a bird watching gazebo with telescopes & signage as well as over twenty (20) park benches.

### Designated Open Space, Set Asides and Facilities (as required by zoning and the subdivision process)

In the County, open space can be created through the subdivision process in several ways. Clustered subdivisions and planned unit developments both require a certain percentage of land for open space or recreation. Cluster subdivision regulations state that the land designated as open space or recreational areas are for joint use by the residents of the cluster subdivision or offered to the county. The Planned Unit Development (PUD) regulations designate the open space for the occupants of the development.



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## Joint-Use Agreements

The Board of Education has a joint-use agreement with the County to permit town and County-sponsored recreational activities on school properties when school groups are not using them. In exchange for this, Carroll County Department of Recreation and Parks and its recreation councils have funded improvements including backstops, player benches, backboards, scoreboards, tot lots, etc.

The Department of Recreation and Parks also works with the Board of Education to plan their recreational facilities in the early stages of designing school sites. The goal of this effort is to create fields and facilities that can be used equally as well by adults as by children, therefore maximizing the usefulness of the investment. For instance, several elementary schools have been designed to have full-sized basketball courts that can be used by others during non-school hours. Additionally, schools are designed to have restrooms that can be accessed from outside so that the school itself can be locked but users of the recreational fields can still access the restrooms.

Joint-use agreements help to achieve both a state goal and a local goal. The State recognizes that using facilities which are already established for recreational activities, such as schools during non-school hours, ensures that these activities are going to continue to take place within population centers where growth is concentrated. In addition, the County can continue to maximize its return on investment by incorporating full-sized gymnasiums and activity rooms into new schools and senior centers and constructing trails in conjunction with the development of new parks and playing fields.

## Volunteer Recreation Councils

The county has eight community recreation councils, three countywide councils, and two facility-based councils. These councils are extremely valuable because they are the primary source for input on project planning and the development of the recreation portion of the Community Investment Program (CIP). Their broad geographic range and interest base ensures that projects are mostly distributed throughout the county and represent both the wide spectrum of recreational interests countywide, as well as the specific needs of a targeted area.

Each year, the Department of Recreation and Parks begins its capital planning process after receiving input from all of the recreation councils, department facility administrators, and the general public for projects to be included in the countywide Community Investment Plan (CIP). In this way, the recreation councils are involved in influencing the provision of parks and recreational facilities locally. Projects are submitted by the Department of Recreation and Parks to the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board for review. This board ranks all of the projects submitted, then presents its recommendations to the Department of Management and Budget. Budget's recommendations are later presented to the Board of County Commissioners and Planning Commission for review and consideration to be included in the CIP. The CIP is adopted following standard procedures for public hearing, review and approval of the annual budget.

**In FY 2015, 733,482 volunteer hours were dedicated to the operation and of recreation council programs. (\$17.7 million worth of volunteer contributions) Councils also raised \$4.5 million, for a total community contribution valued at \$21.97 or a rate of \$7.96 for every dollar in the approved Recreation and Parks operating budget.**

## 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

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The recreation councils are volunteer organizations that have an elected Board, which typically meets on a monthly basis. In FY 2015, 733,482 volunteer hours were dedicated to the operation and administration of recreation council programs. This equates to \$17.7 million worth of volunteer contributions. The councils raised \$4.5 million, for a total community contribution valued at \$21.97 or a rate of \$7.96 for every dollar in the approved Recreation and Parks operating budget.

The Friends of Carroll Recreation and Parks is composed of an elected member from each of the councils. It meets quarterly to discuss issues that are common to all of the recreation councils and serves as an advisory group on certain policy issues. Additionally, this 501c3 organization solicits donations for various facility improvements, equipment purchases, and sponsorships.

The Carroll County Recreation and Parks Advisory Board advises on policy issues and community recreation needs. The Board includes a representative from the Board of Education and eleven citizen members who are appointed by the County Commissioners. The primary responsibility of the Board is to review and make recommendations on all of the capital project requests and serve in an advisory capacity to the Department.

Citizens and businesses can also donate money to the Park Legacy Fund to improve and enhance the county's park system. Contributors can earmark their donations to support specific parks, trails, nature centers, recreational facilities, and recreational programs.

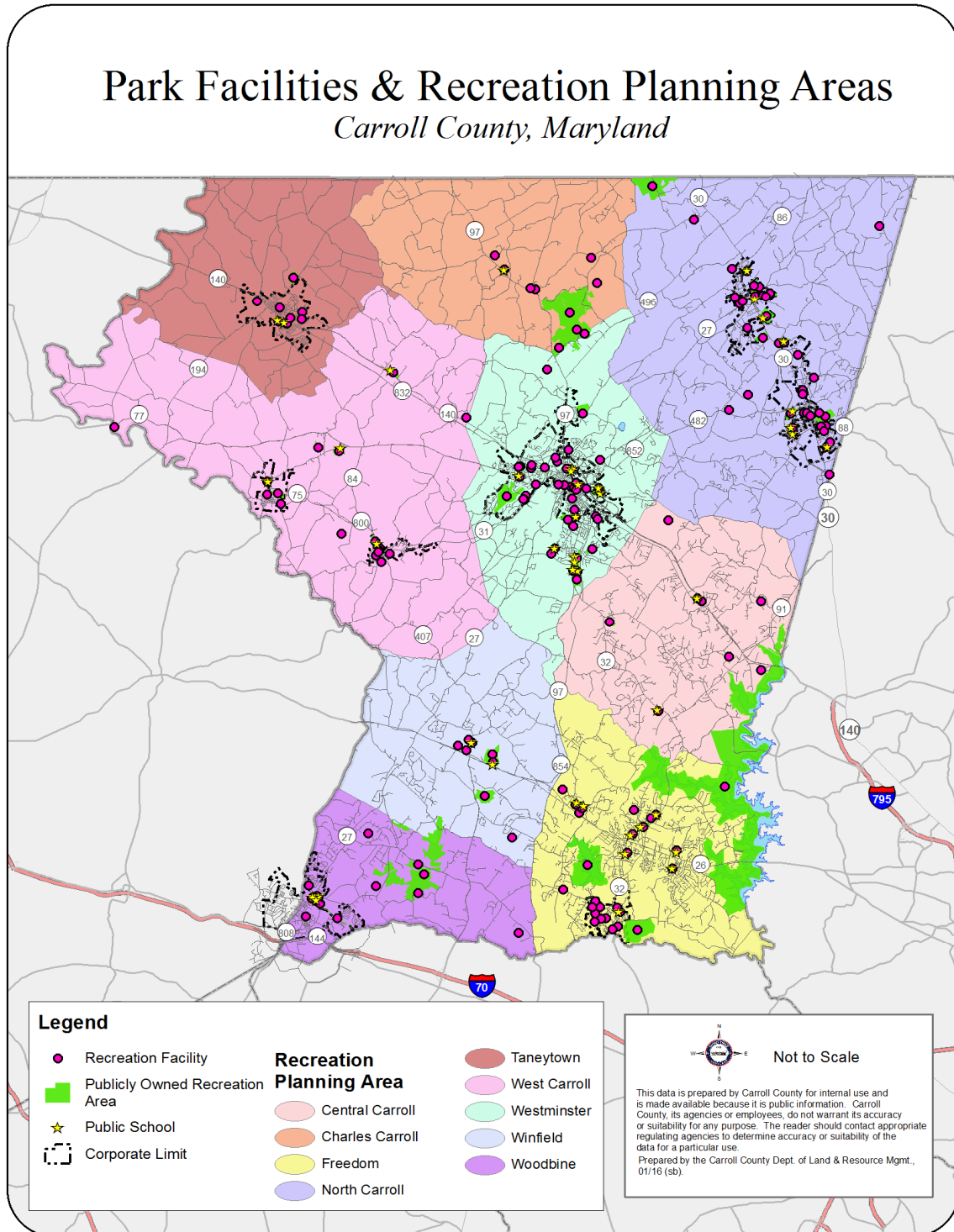
### **Inventory of Existing Public Park and Recreation Facilities Supply**

Carroll County contains a great diversity of parks, recreation, and open spaces. Mini-parks and neighborhood parks are found in the densely developed towns and larger subdivisions in the county, and are designed to serve a small, localized population. Community parks that are somewhat larger in size can be found throughout the county and in the towns, and provide a more diverse set of recreational opportunities to reflect the broader population base they serve. The county's two regional parks and its sports complex appropriately are located in the two most populous areas, Freedom and Westminster. Two largely undeveloped future reservoir sites, along with the existing buffer lands of Liberty Reservoir and the state lands of Morgan Run Natural Environmental Area and Patapsco Valley State Park, provide countywide access to more natural settings and miles of multi-use trails open to hikers, horseback riders, and cross-country skiers. School facilities located throughout the county provide recreational facilities as well, and many county residents enjoy open space adjacent to their homes that is provided as a requirement of the subdivision process.

Map # 2 below illustrates the location of County parks, public school recreation sites and town parks. A detailed inventory of recreation lands in Carroll County can be found in appendix # 1; the inventory includes amenity data for each site.

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MAP # 2 - Park Facilities & Recreation Planning Areas



2017 Recreation Facilities interactive Map/inventory data Hyperlink - <https://carrollco-md.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5a9afdbc80d7416097568fa4ed859ae2>

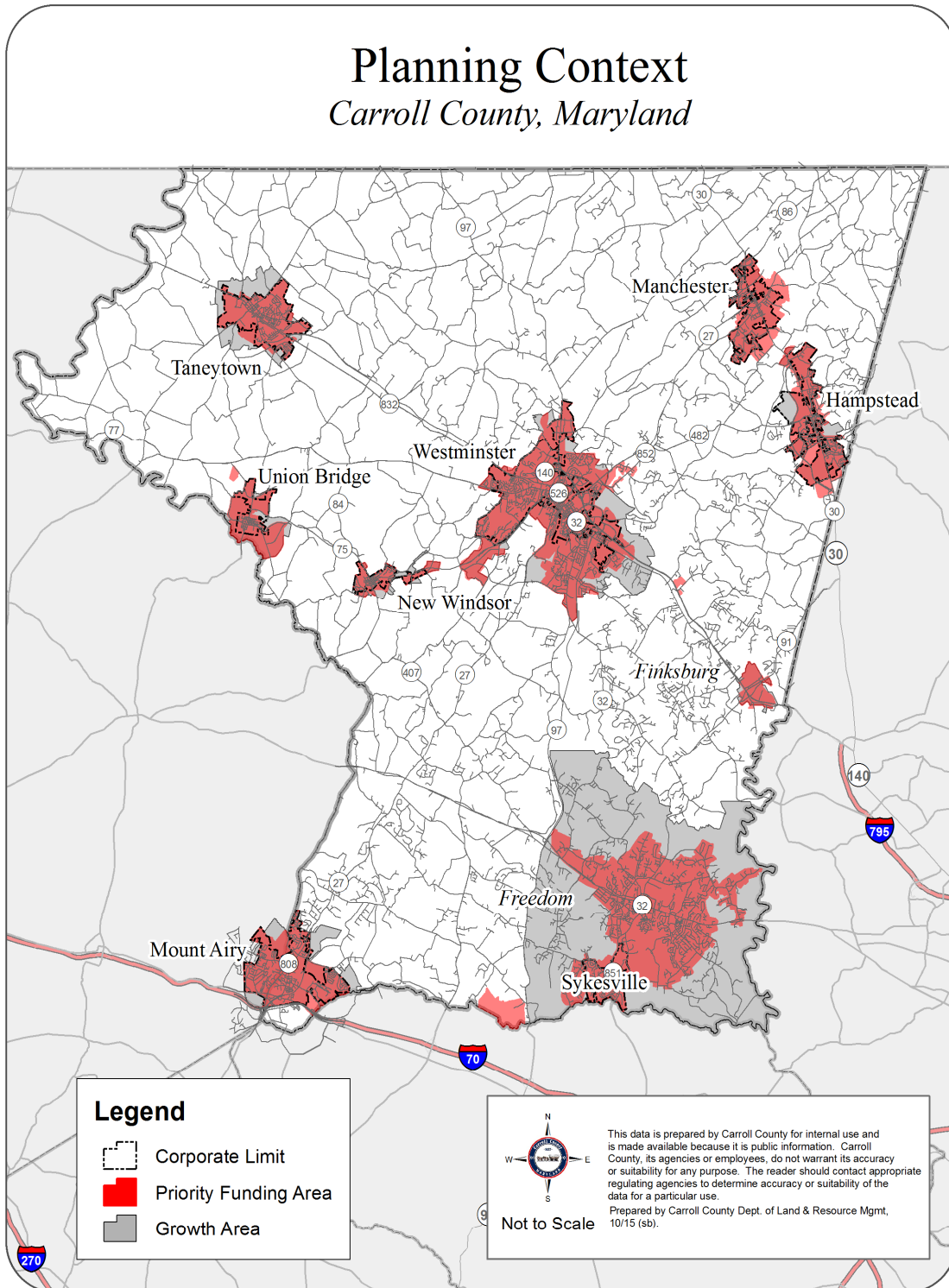


## 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

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From this map (2) two things are evident. The first is that the majority of the sites are focused in and around the designated growth areas, where the majority of the county's population resides. Additionally, the map reveals that county's designated growth areas are fairly evenly distributed geographically across the county. When combined with several school sites and major natural resource areas located outside of the growth areas, this has the result of making parks and recreational facilities easily accessible to most county residents regardless of whether they live in the rural parts of the county or in its community planning areas.

## MAP # 9 - Planning Context



## 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

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As an additional benefit, this geographic distribution of facilities provides regional opportunities to make inter jurisdictional connections between Carroll County and its gateway communities including Sykesville, Eldersburg, Taneytown, and Detour with Howard, Baltimore and Frederick Counties, respectively. The majority of these efforts relate to trail corridors as a means to enable physical connectivity; current efforts are focused on developing both multi-use land trails and, where feasible, expanding and enhancing water trail opportunities.



Recent efforts have included work in southeastern Carroll on the Governor Frank Brown Trail project. This trail will connect residential, recreational and community destinations in Eldersburg and the Town of Sykesville with the various county and state park/wildlife resource lands along the Patapsco River Valley. Connected resources will include the county's regional Freedom Park, South Branch Park (located in Howard County), which is being developed cooperatively by the Town of

Sykesville, Patapsco Valley State Park and the Hugg-Thomas Wildlife Management Area. This trail project will connect adjoining resources to ultimately link with trails/greenways into Howard County to the west/south and with Baltimore County to the east. Trail users will ultimately be able to travel east as far as the Jones Falls Trail and the Baltimore harbor.

In the northern and western portions of Carroll, on-going efforts will extend the county's existing Double Pipe Creek Water Trail and expand new public access points to the Monocacy River, while helping promote its unique status as a designated Scenic River. The Double Pipe Creek Water Trail's eastern terminus is a public access point on Hapes Mill Road in Middleburg; its original western end-point was Double Pipe Creek Park in Detour on the Carroll/Frederick county line. Currently, coordination efforts are underway to promote travel westerly to link it with the main stem of the Monocacy and the existing Monocacy River Water Trail, which is part of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways water trail network. Further, through a partnership initiative with Frederick County, property was jointly acquired to extend the Monocacy water trail further north an additional 11 miles, capturing the starting point of its officially State Scenic River Designation. This will allow residents from both Frederick and Carroll counties, as well as visiting regional recreational users and tourists, open public water access to the Monocacy, with numerous connections to Frederick County along the entire 58-mile course of the main stem south to its confluence with the Potomac River.

In the northern most reaches of the county, staff is communicating with Genesee Wyoming Railroad and local governments in southern Pennsylvania regarding acquisition of an inactive rail line to establish a rail-to-trail conversion running northerly across the Mason-Dixon Line into Littlestown, Pennsylvania. The former line running north from Angell Road in Taneytown would make an excellent hiker/biker trail. Staff continues regular, open conversations regarding this possible redevelopment effort.



# 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

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## Summary Narrative

Since the completion of the 2012 Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, Carroll County has made significant progress attaining its stated goals with the completion of the following projects:

- Phase I completion of both Leister Park (2014) and Krimgold Park (2015), allowing for public use including picnic areas, walking trails, a disc golf course and limited use of athletic fields
- Completed Westminster Community Pond revitalization project in 2015 which added a walking trail that connects to adjacent business park and residential community
- Joint acquisition of property in Bridgeport in 2014 with Frederick County for a new access point to the Monocacy Scenic River which will add 11 miles to Carroll County's existing water trail
- Completed Phase I of Governor Frank Brown Trail in 2016, establishing a bicycle/pedestrian connection between two dead end streets to link to community destinations



- Significantly increased awareness and funding contributions through promotion of Park Legacy Fund supporting not only smaller ticket amenities such as pet waste stations and benches but also larger items including playgrounds, an observatory and park development
- Designated former Harrison Leishear property as location for future Mt. Airy regional park
- Opened Carroll County's first dog park in 2013 at Bennett Cerf Park
- Acquired 9 acre parcel in 2012 for future Winfield Park that will feature athletic field
- Added one additional athletic field at Mayeski Park in 2013 with the support of over \$100,000 of donated funding and contractor services
- Completion of Phase I of the Governor Frank Brown Trail provides a bicycle/pedestrian connection that connects residents to community destinations and recreational facilities and will eventually provide a connection between Eldersburg and Sykesville
- Implementation of a long term lease that allows for recreational use of athletic fields at Springfield Hospital Center
- Joint efforts between the Town of Hampstead and Carroll County through Community Parks and Playgrounds to support new playground at Leister Park



## 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

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- Completion of Phase II development of Little Pipe Creek Trail in Union Bridge which provides recreational opportunity to all age groups
- Completion of Westminster Heritage Tree Trail in Bennett Cerf Park



While Carroll County has had success meeting the recreational needs of residents to date, efforts are ongoing to help address future needs as well. In anticipation of future program and population growth, communities have the following sites been designated for park development:

- Eldersburg – 88 acre former Dulaney Property
- Mount Airy – 100 acre former Harrison Leishear Property on Ridge Road
- New Windsor – 7 acre former wastewater lagoon site
- Taneytown – additional 20 acres at Taneytown Memorial Park
- Westminster – additional 18.85 acres for expansion of Deer Park

\* A detailed inventory of recreation lands in Carroll County can be found in appendix # 1; this inventory includes amenity data for each site.

### Measuring User Demand

#### Public Engagement and Outreach

#### County Efforts

While local and national studies help to document current use and suggest future trends, the most accurate indicator of local preferences and needs continues to be direct communication with county residents. Multiple surveys, ongoing communication through social media, public meetings and the department's 40+ year relationship with its volunteer recreation councils provide vital information regarding the community's current and future needs.

Volunteer recreation councils and their organized youth sports programs continue to express a need for additional gymnasiums and athletic fields, including artificial turf fields. Program participation figures have grown to over 53,000 registrants in 2016 with many of those occurring in youth sports programs. Even though the county's school age population has decreased in recent years, the total population of the county remains near 170,000 residents and any reductions in field use for youth will be offset by increases needed for adult programs.

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Public participation was an important component of the LPPRP development process. An initial public meeting regarding the plan to update the LPPRP was held in conjunction with a meeting of the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, prior to the creation of the 2017 plan. A strategy was shared regarding the collection of public input to be used in this effort. A collective total of 2,377 responses were received from the following three separate surveys conducted over a 2 year period:

- 2014 Recreation and Parks Needs Assessment Survey
- 2016 Bicycle Pedestrian Survey
- 2016 LPPRP Survey

**2,377 responses were received from three separate surveys conducted over a 2 year period**

As a follow up to these surveys, public meetings were held at multiple locations to gather additional input. In addition, formal public meetings were held with the Carroll County Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, the Board of County Commissioners and the Carroll County Planning Commission as a part of this effort.

All survey results have consistently shown trails, both paved and natural surface, to score highest among park amenities desired by citizens. The top five desired park amenities from these surveys are listed below:

1. Trails
2. Picnic areas
3. Playgrounds
4. Athletic fields
5. Dog Parks

In addition to these surveys, Recreation and Parks staff members attend recreation councils meetings on a regular basis and hear input both from council members and the general public regarding facility use and needs. The Department has a dedicated Facebook following with over 2,500 likes and the use of social media facilitates ongoing communication with the general public regarding existing opportunities and requests for new facilities.

### Additional Public Input

The State of Maryland conducted the Children in Nature Survey in 2008 which resulted in 615 responses that included the following highlights:

- 80% of respondents reported they participate in non-schoolyard based “outdoor classroom experiences” and the vast majority of those experiences are for grades 3-6
- Walking/hiking, wildlife viewing, picnicking and bicycling are valued most by respondents when visiting a state park



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- 80% report use of trails near schools and communities to access open spaces, parks and other public natural areas

The Chesapeake Bay Trust conducted a Maryland Statewide Survey in 2008 and collected responses from 1,015 randomly selected adults statewide. Key findings include the following:

- 49% rank protection of the environment above the middle of the pack of all the issues and challenges facing Maryland today
- 85% report preparation of children in schools for future environmental challenges is the most important environmental issue we face today
- 75% encourage children to play outside

At the national level, the Physical Activity Council's annual study tracks sports, fitness and recreation participation in the United States. The 2016 Participation Report includes the following highlights:

- Team sports continue to gradual increase of approximately 1% per year since 2013
- Over 80% of Generation Z (2000+) were active and had the least percentage of inactive members
- Generation Z includes the highest participation rates in outdoor sports (62%) and team sports (57%)
- 49% of Millennials (1980-1999) were involved in high calorie burning activities
- 48% of Gen X (1965-1979) participated at least once a week in a fitness activity or sport
- The Boomer Generation (1945-1964) was the least active with only 37% involved in high calorie burning exercises

### Usage Data & Demand & Participation Rates

The Department of Recreation and Parks collects user information from is volunteer recreation councils, department run programs and from staff at major park facilities. This information is included in the department's Annual Report, produced each year and available in hard copy and online. FY 2016 featured 54,903 program registrants and 1,497,787 individuals participated in programs or visited parks.

**FY 2016 featured 54,903 program registrants and 1,497,787 individuals participated in programs or visited parks.**

Recreation and Parks has begun to employ trail counters at several of its community parks to measure what was previously non-documented use. While these counters have only been recently installed at three sites thus far, the usage is significant with a daily average of over 250 trail users. If these numbers are applied to each of the thirteen (13) county parks with trails, this would indicate usage by over 90,000 citizens annually. The department plans to install additional trail counters with a goal of



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eventually capturing all sites with walking trails. This will not only help quantify current use but also provide justification for future trails, which continue to be the most requested park amenity.

### **Unmet needs/demands for additional programs/facilities**

Consistent with the previously mentioned survey results, Carroll County continues to hear regular requests for additional trails, picnic areas, playgrounds, athletic fields (including artificial turf fields) and dog parks. In addition, most recreation councils continue to request additional gymnasium space for youth sports programs. With the closing of three schools, the communities are requesting conversions of those buildings into recreation centers or replacement facilities if they are no longer available for after school use.

As the demographics change and the senior population increases, the demand for additional trails is expected to continue and increase. A growing number of seniors are now participating in pickleball with regular groups meeting at the Robert Moton Center and the South Carroll Senior and Community Center. Recreation and Parks will now be including pickleball striping as a part of tennis court resurfacing at Sandymount Park and Deer Park. If well received and utilized, this may become the standard for future court resurfacing.

### **Level of Service Analysis**

When referencing the State's previous single metric of a goal of 30 acres of parkland per thousand residents, one could conclude that once achieved, no need would exist to purchase or develop additional parkland until such time the population (and ratio) increased. Carroll County has previously surpassed and maintained more than 30 acres per thousand residents and as a result, enjoys the flexibility of utilizing its Program Open Space funding in their entirety for either land acquisition or development to meet the needs of its citizens. However, if all of the county's park land was located in the southeast corner of the county, residents in other areas would not be served well. As a result (and with the encouragement of the State), Carroll County has introduced additional metrics such as park equity and proximity analysis to be considered when allocating resources to acquire and develop park and recreation areas.

### **Proximity Analysis**

Carroll County completed a proximity analysis of public recreation areas by creating a map with a two mile radius around school recreation areas (which typically include athletic fields and playgrounds) and municipal, county and state parks. In a rural area without sidewalks or heavy traffic, a distance greater than 2 miles may be a reasonable distance to travel to a recreational facility – particularly in areas dominated by preserved farmland, abundant open space and less dense residential development. However, in the municipalities where growth is concentrated, the distance should be less than 2 miles and ideally walkable with a safe network of sidewalks and trails. Rather than complete a separate Proximity Analysis for each type of community, this two mile radius was selected as a compromise to balance the needs and experiences of those living in the municipalities and designated growth areas as well as those residents residing in the more rural areas of the county. In addition, the needs in the more

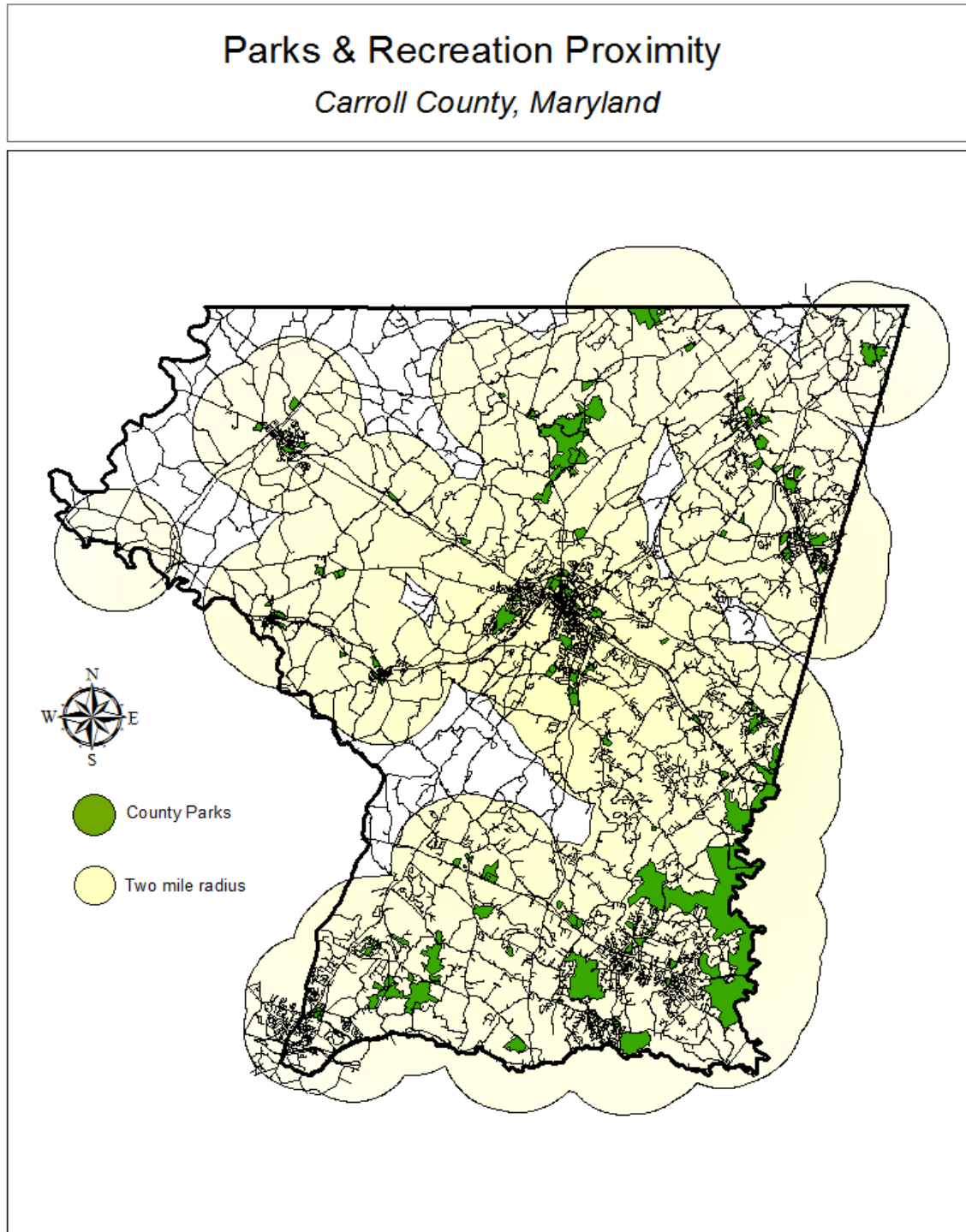
## 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

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heavily developed municipal areas will be addressed from a different perspective through the Park Equity Analysis. A review of this proximity analysis leads to several conclusions:

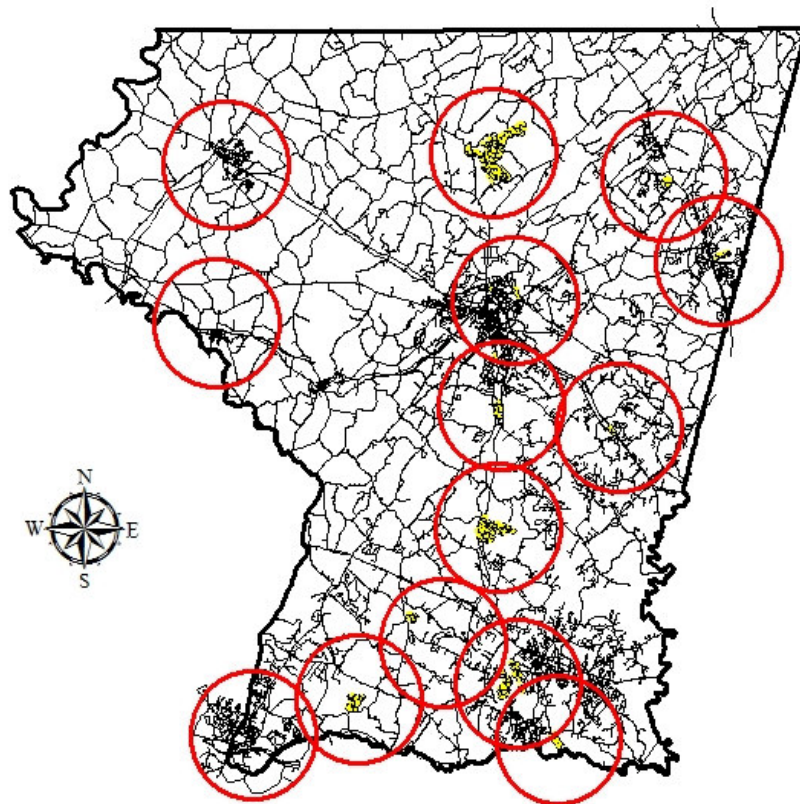
- The vast majority of Carroll County's park and recreation areas are located near or in the municipalities or designated growth areas, consistent with both State and County goals
- The vast majority of the County's residents live in those same designated growth areas and as a result are well served with nearby park and recreation areas
- Residents in rural areas outside of the municipalities and designated growth areas must, in general, travel further (often by vehicle) to utilize public recreation facilities
- An unintended consequence of this lack of proximity to parks is less time spent outdoors by both children and adults and less exposure to the many health benefits associated with regular park visitation including improved physical and mental health
- Residents in areas that require greater travel to access parks and recreation facilities but pay the same taxes as other residents may recognize the inequity of that outcome and demand similar benefits closer to home
- Geographic areas that do not include park and recreation facilities within a two (2) mile radius (map # 10) include the northwestern and western areas of the county which are less populated and feature large tracts of open space due to numerous farms, many of which are permanently preserved through the County and State Ag Preservation programs.
- Overall, the majority of both parks and population are located near municipalities or designated growth areas. These individuals are well served by available recreational opportunities. Those who live in rural areas have to travel further and do not benefit as much.
- Please see map # 11 for areas with existing trails within a two (2) mile radius of area centers. Carroll County currently has over thirty miles of paved and natural surface trails. Carroll County is currently working with the Department of Natural resources, MDOT and the Baltimore Metropolitan Council to develop trail corridors and projects in Carroll County that support statewide trail planning and connectivity interests. Carroll County is currently pursuing acquisition of a rail road right of way from Taneytown to the Maryland/Pennsylvania state line for a rail to trails connection to Littlestown Pennsylvania.

## MAP # 10 - Parks & Recreation Proximity



**Map # 11 - Current Trails**

Parks & Recreation  
Trails 2 Mile Radius  
*Carroll County, Maryland*





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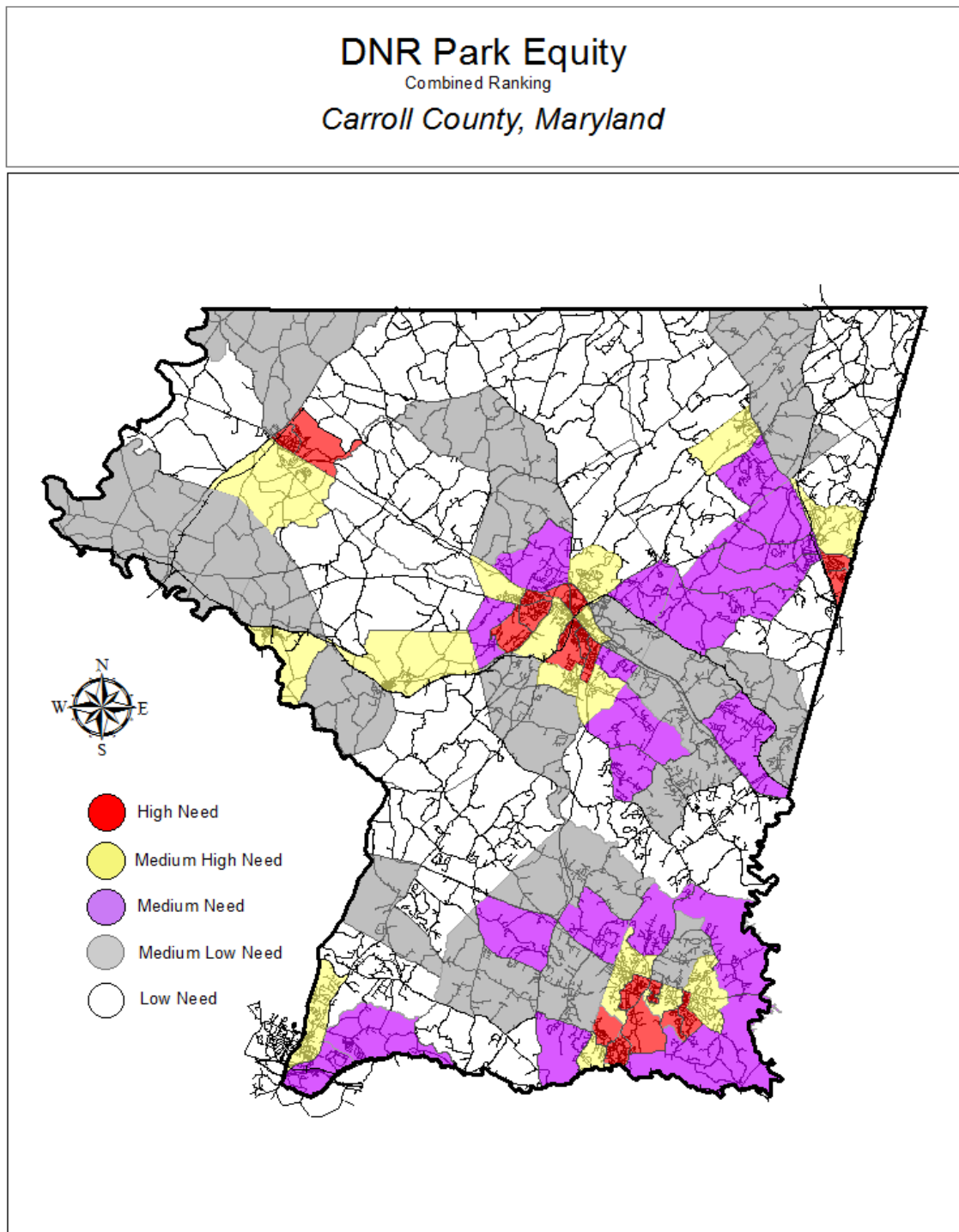
### Park Equity Analysis

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources has collected data on a state wide basis allowing counties to analyze park equity based on location and population, an additional tool and metric that may now be used while analyzing levels of service for residents (see map below)

When reviewing the DNR Park Equity Density Ranking for Carroll County, the following conclusions were reached:

- The areas designated as a high need were all located within designated growth areas or municipalities which have both the greatest population density and number of existing facilities
- Medium high level need areas were typically located just outside the designated growth areas and municipalities
- Many of the areas designated as medium low or low need were due to low population levels but were also identified in the proximity analysis as locations in need of park and recreation facilities

## MAP # 12 - DNR Park Equity



DNR dataset (ParkEquity2016MDDNRCarroll.CPG) with area colors modified to better illustrate adjacent needs areas, color key added.

## 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

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### Conclusion

While it may be tempting for some to dismiss different forms of analysis that may lead to conflicting recommendations, we believe it is healthy to utilize multiple metrics when determining how best to meet the citizens' needs. By incorporating both proximity and equity analysis into the discussion along with the acres per thousand residents, all of these factors can be considered when allocating resources towards the meeting of recreational needs for all citizens.

### Capital Improvement Plan

As a part of its annual budget process, Carroll County approves a 5 year capital budget known as the Community Investment Plan (CIP). The plan is based on estimated available funding from Program Open Space, Impact Fees and General Fund dollars that is expected to be available for recreation and parks related projects.

When planning new capital project requests, a number of factors are considered including existing inventory, proximity to residents, equity and public input collected from surveys and volunteer recreation councils. As county demographics continue to change in coming years, this will further justify the need for regular surveys and other means to get input from residents who do not have children participating in our recreation councils.

Projects are presented first to the Recreation and Parks Advisory Board for their review, approval and prioritization before the move to the Department of Management & Budget, Planning Commission and ultimately County Commissioners for adoption in the county budget.

The current CIP (FY17 – FY22) reflects projects planned since the 2012 LPPRP and is based on funding availability. It should be noted that the Carroll County CIP process is structured such that new projects are added to the last year of each five year CIP projection. It should also be noted that each fiscal year during a five year CIP plan is subject to change based on funding availability each year. It should also be noted that not all projects requested by the Department of Recreation and Parks are recommended to be included in the plan due to funding limitations. In 2016, projects not recommended for funding included a second county dog park, a community park in Union Bridge and additional trail development. Because of these factors, changes in funding priorities tend to occur gradually over time. Fortunately, this is not unlike changes in recreational trends. It remains a priority of the Department of Recreation and Parks to ensure that a strong relationship is maintained between the LPPRP and CIP that supports County and State goals. However, uncertainty of Program Open Space funding levels has had a significant impact on the County's ability to complete projects in the requested timeframe.

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A brief description is provided for the FY17-FY22 CIP and the adopted FY17-FY22 CIP is provided below:

**Bark Hill Park Improvements** – Bark Hill Park is located outside of Uniontown, MD and this project will also include a new playground and pavilion, addressing the #2 and #3 most requested park amenities



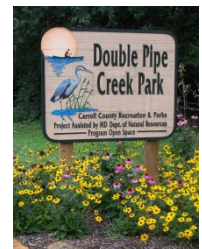
**Bear Branch Nature Center Roof Replacement** – Bear Branch is located a few miles north of Westminster, MD, the fiberglass shingle roof is more than thirty years old and will be replaced with a new standing seam metal roof; this effort will help to maintain existing park infrastructure and a facility that is critical to supporting local Children in Nature initiatives

**Bear Branch Tot Lot** - Bear Branch is located a few miles north of Westminster, MD; the new nature themed tot lot will serve elementary school field trips as well as local family visitors, addressing the #3 most desired park amenity

**Community Self-Help Projects** – Each year funding is available to assist recreation councils with field maintenance and other appropriate small capital projects.

**Deer Park and Sandymount Court Resurfacings** – Both parks are located a few miles southeast of Westminster, MD, Tennis and Basketball courts are in need of replacement due to asphalt failures. New court fencing is included in this project which will help to maintain existing park infrastructure. These locations are identified as high and medium needs respectively in the Park Equity analysis

**Double Pipe Creek Boat Ramp** – Double Pipe Creek Park is located west of Westminster, MD near the Frederick County border. This project will provide an ADA accessible boat ramp for the launching and retrieval of small watercraft to and from the creek that feeds into the Monocacy River. This project will help to improve access to the County's only water trail



**Gillis Falls Trail** – Gillis Falls Park is located a few miles northeast of Mount Airy, MD. This project will provide natural surface equestrian, bike, walking trails, addressing the #1 most requested park amenity

**Indoor Track Shipley Arena** – The arena is located in Westminster, MD just outside of downtown. This project will establish an indoor track area for regional events.

**Krimgold Park** – An additional 2/3 mile walking trail was added in 2017 and an additional one mile of walking trail is planned for FY23, addressing the #1 most requested park amenity. This project's location is identified as a medium need in the Park Equity analysis





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Krimgold Tot Lot – Krimgold Park is located in Woodbine, MD northeast of Mt. Airy. Krimgold was dedicated in 2015 and the new tot lot addresses the #3 most requested park amenity. This project's location is identified as a medium need in the Park Equity analysis

Mayeski Park Entrance Road Overlay – Mayeski Park is located south of Westminster, MD. This project replaced approximately 1,400 LF of failed paving along the length of the park entrance road and maintains existing park infrastructure

Northwest County Trail Acquisition – An unused rail road right of way extends from just outside of Taneytown, MD to the Maryland state line with Pennsylvania and north into Littlestown, PA. Acquisition of this ROW would allow for a walking/biking trail, addressing the #1 most requested park amenity in a location that based on the proximity analysis is underserved.

Parkland Acquisition – This CIP line item provides for the acquisition of additional parks lands in accordance with POS funding policy.

Park Restoration – This locally funded CIP line item allows for maintenance and repairs in Carroll County Parks. Planned Projects include resurfacing of existing walking trails in FY18 through FY23, maintaining park infrastructure that is the #1 requested park amenity



Sports Complex Lighting - The sports complex is located a few miles north of Westminster, MD. This park has five baseball/softball fields that are used for tournament play. Three of these fields are currently lighted and the light fixtures are in need of replacement due to age and condition. Two additional baseball/softball fields and soccer fields will receive new lighting. This project address the #4 most requested amenity by extending available hours of usage

Sports Complex Overlay - The sports complex is located a few miles north of Westminster, MD. The entrance road needs repairs and an overlay of new asphalt as maintenance to existing infrastructure.



Tot Lot Replacement – This CIP line item occurs each year and allows for replacement of aged existing tot lots every other year, addressing existing park infrastructure that is the #3 most requested park amenity

Town Fund - This CIP line item occurs each year and allows for partial funding of town projects in support of recreation and parks facilities.

Union Mills Buildings Renovations – Union Mills is located a few miles north of Westminster, MD. This project provides funding for ongoing renovation of facilities at this historic facility.

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Union Mills Main House Renovations - Union Mills is located a few miles north of Westminster, MD. This project provides funding for ongoing renovation of the original residence at this historic facility.

Westminster Veterans Memorial Park – This Park is located a few miles outside of downtown Westminster, MD. This project is under design for construction in a future fiscal year. Plans are to include a walking trail, pavilion, playground and an area for a veteran’s memorial, addressing the #1, #2 and #3 most requested park amenities. This location is identified as a high need in the Park Equity analysis.

# 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

## COMMUNITY INVESTMENT PLAN FOR FISCAL YEARS 2017 TO 2022

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Prior Allocation	Balance to Complete	Total Project Cost
CULTURE AND RECREATION:									
Bark Hill Park Improvements	\$0	\$486,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$486,000
Bear Branch Nature Center Roof Replacement	0	0	0	0	278,400	0	0	0	278,400
Bear Branch Tot Lot	116,700	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	116,700
Community Self-Help Projects	74,000	76,000	78,000	80,000	82,000	84,000	0	0	474,000
Deer Park and Sandymount Court Resurfacing	223,150	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	223,150
Double Pipe Creek Boat Ramp	0	0	176,600	0	0	0	0	0	176,600
Gillis Falls Trail I	0	0	0	457,000	0	0	0	0	457,000
Indoor Track Shipley Arena	50,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50,000
Kringold Tot Lot	80,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	80,000
Mayeski Park Entrance Road Overlay	90,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90,000
Northwest County Trail Acquisition	0	0	0	0	200,000	0	0	0	200,000
Parkland Acquisition	200,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	200,000
Park Restoration	309,600	163,400	167,200	171,200	175,300	179,500	0	0	1,166,200
Recreation and Parks Unallocated	25,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25,000
Sports Complex Lighting	0	0	0	370,000	320,000	523,500	0	0	1,213,500
Sports Complex Overlay	0	244,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	244,000
Tot Lot Replacement	55,000	57,750	60,650	63,670	66,850	70,200	0	0	374,120
Town Fund	7,950	10,030	12,200	12,800	13,300	13,800	0	0	70,080
Union Mills Buildings Renovations	0	150,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	150,000
Union Mills Main House Renovations	510,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	510,000
Westminster Veterans Memorial Park	150,000	0	500,000	0	0	0	3,407,596	0	4,057,596
CULTURE AND RECREATION TOTAL	\$1,891,400	\$1,187,180	\$994,650	\$1,154,670	\$1,135,850	\$871,000	\$3,407,596	\$0	\$10,642,346
SOURCES OF FUNDING:									
Transfer from General Fund	\$579,365	\$279,605	\$263,465	\$307,367	\$305,125	\$284,320	\$100	\$0	\$2,019,347
Bonds	330,000	150,000	0	0	0	0	80,168	0	560,168
Reallocated GF Transfer	95,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	95,000
Impact Fee - Parks	160,670	184,000	159,000	160,000	180,000	130,000	605,000	0	1,578,670
Program Open Space	726,365	573,575	572,185	687,303	650,725	456,680	2,722,328	0	6,389,161
CULTURE AND RECREATION TOTAL	\$1,891,400	\$1,187,180	\$994,650	\$1,154,670	\$1,135,850	\$871,000	\$3,407,596	\$0	\$10,642,346

# 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

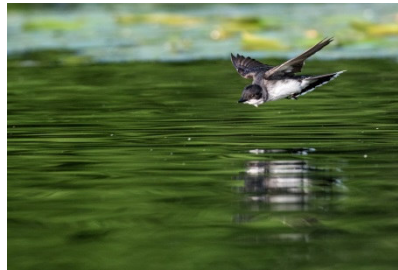
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## Natural Resources Land Conservation

### Executive Summary/Overview

Land conserved for natural resource protection generally provides a variety of functions and benefits to residents and the communities where they are located. Forests, wetlands, river corridors, open meadows and other open landscapes preserved in their natural state provide benefits to the ecosystem including the following:

- Water filtering and recharge
- Wildlife habitat
- Air purification
- Outdoor recreation



Carroll County offers a number of existing opportunities for people to connect with nature including:

- Over 30 miles of trails, many of which are natural surface and provide opportunities to view wildlife and learn more about our natural environment
- Two nature centers that include a variety of exhibits and classes focused on environmental education
- Carroll County Outdoor School provides each 6th grade public school student with one week of intensive environmental education in a residential camp setting
- Ponds and lakes for fishing
- Excellent locations for bird watching, nature photography, etc.



### Opportunities at county parks to offer additional opportunities to connect people with nature

Future reservoir properties at Gillis Falls and Union Mills include large tracts of undeveloped land as well as heavily used trail networks. In light of the fact that the reservoirs are years away from construction (if built at all), there are large tracts of land that could be opened up for additional recreational purposes. This could include additional trails, hunting and fishing opportunities, etc. Other opportunities to help expand opportunities to connect citizens with nature include the following:

- Addition of planned nature themed playground at Bear Branch Nature Center that will help attract families to facility and complement existing trails and natural features at site
- Continue to promote parks as outdoor classrooms and offer environmental education programs through Park Naturalists



## 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

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- Implement recommendations from Maryland Department of Natural Resources Children in Nature initiative (CIN). The Maryland Partnership for Children in Nature is a public and private partnership that works collaboratively to provide opportunities for children to play and learn outdoors and to promote environmental literacy. The CIN partnership was instrumental in helping the State of Maryland update the pre K-12 environmental literacy education program (COMAR 13A.04.017) and to pass the first environmental literacy graduation requirement (COMAR 13A.03.02.03) in the nation. Carroll County Recreation and Parks hosts a pre-K program (Mommy and Me), Elementary school field trips (Bear Branch Nature Center at Hashawha and the Piney Run Park Nature Center) as well as the Carroll County Public School's Outdoor school program where all sixth grade students spend a week in residence at the Hashawha environmental center. All of Carroll County parks provide family opportunities to spend time outdoors learning about the environment through direct environmental experience.
- Implement recommendations from National Recreation and Parks Association Wildlife Explorers and develop into local programming initiatives

### County Goals for Natural Resource Land Conservation

Protect, maintain, and restore, where feasible, the environmental resources and natural ecosystems in the county by promoting land use practices that are in balance with, and minimize the effects on the natural environment, subject to appropriate cost/benefit analysis. This is achieved utilizing the following strategies:

- Continue to conserve agricultural lands and implement and enforce minimum fifty foot stream buffers
- Continue to secure funds for watershed assessments and restoration
- Continue to implement the forest banking program
- Continue to minimize developments' impact on recharge rates of community supply wells to allow for the maximum recharge
- Continue to evaluate impacts to sensitive watersheds and recharge areas for community water supplies when determining new development patterns
- Continue to maintain, restore and/or regenerate forested stream buffers through development regulations, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit compliance and stream assessment efforts
- Encourage all municipalities to adopt the County's Water Resource Management Ordinance or similar protections for municipal water resources
- Continue to acquire water resource, floodplain, and forest conservation protection easements through the development process

# 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

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## State Goals for Natural Resource Land Conservation

- Identify, protect and restore lands and waterways in Maryland that support important aquatic and terrestrial natural resources and ecological functions, through combined use of the following techniques:
- Public land acquisition and stewardship;
- Provide land conservation easements and stewardship practices through purchased or donated easement programs;
- Local land use management plans and procedures that conserve natural resources and environmentally sensitive areas and minimize impacts to resource lands when development occurs;
- Support incentives for resource-based economies that increase the retention of forests, wetlands or agricultural lands;
- Avoidance of impacts on natural resources by publicly funded infrastructure development projects; and
- Appropriate mitigation response, commensurate with the value of the affected resource



- Focus conservation and restoration activities on priority areas, according to a strategic framework such as the Targeted Ecological Areas (TEAs) in GreenPrint
- Conserve and restore species of concern and important habitat types that may fall outside of designated green infrastructure (examples include: rock outcrops, karst systems, caves, shale barren communities, grasslands, shoreline beach and dune systems, mud flats, non-forested islands, etc.)
- Develop a more comprehensive inventory of natural resource lands and environmentally sensitive areas
- Establish measurable objectives for natural resource conservation and an integrated state/local strategy to achieve them through state and local implementation programs
- Assess the combined ability of state and local programs to achieve the following:
- Expand and connect forests, farmland and other natural lands as a network of contiguous green infrastructure

## 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

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- Protect critical terrestrial and aquatic habitats, biological communities and populations
- Manage watersheds in ways that protect, conserve and restore stream corridors, riparian forest buffers, wetlands, floodplains and aquifer recharge areas and their associated hydrologic and water quality functions
- Adopt coordinated land and watershed management strategies that recognize the critical links between growth management and aquatic biodiversity and fisheries production
- Support a productive forestland base and forest resource industry, emphasizing the economic viability of privately owned forestland

### Progress in Implementing Strategy for Natural Resource Conservation

The 2012 Carroll County Land Preservation, Park, and Recreation Plan strategies for natural resource conservation and all of these strategies have been and are continuing to be implemented through various efforts and initiatives. It is important to note that these strategies are, for the most part, ongoing in nature, as opposed to involving a finite completion date. As such, they become incorporated into the normal operating practices and missions of the responsible bureaus, departments, or agencies. Accordingly, this leads staff to maintain efforts to implement goals and strategies as well as continually seek new implementing opportunities.

Carroll County is taking a number of steps to achieve State and county resource conservation goals. Its primary methods of achieving these goals are and will remain the County Master Plan, community comprehensive plans, capital funding of land preservation and other natural resource-related projects, and development regulations. Each of these are reviewed on a regular basis (some more frequently than others), and adjustments made accordingly based upon county priorities.

Over the past five (5) years, Carroll County has continued to acquire stream buffers and perpetual easements on over 557 acres through the development process. This total consists of 96 water easements, 26 floodplain easements, and 435 forest conservation easements. These easements are inspected every three (3) years to ensure they are in compliance with the easement language. Chapter 154, Water Resources management specifically requires that a 200' buffer be established and placed into easement around wells, wellheads, and well sites during the development process. This Chapter was adopted in 2004, and eight (8) of our nine (9) municipalities have adopted these regulations as well.

Carroll County also has an extremely successful forest bank program with over 739 total acres in the program and 149 acres planted since 2012. These bank sites are placed into easements which are inspected as well to ensure compliance. In 2013, Carroll County started a program called "The Stream Buffer Initiative". With funding support from the Department of Natural Resources, Maryland Stream Restoration Challenge and the Carroll County Commissioners, 123 acres of trees were planted from 2013-2015 along stream corridors throughout Carroll County. Our stream corridor assessments areas have been identified for future plantings as well and we will continue to work with property owners who are interested in this program.

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From 2012 – 2017, Carroll County has expended approximately \$7.5 million in funding through the Community Investment Program for our watershed assessment and restoration efforts. This funding has been used for construction of new storm water management facilities, retrofitting of existing facilities, storm drain outfall repairs, tree plantings, monitoring and education.

With the adoption of the 2014 The Carroll County Master Plan, the environmental resources addressed were reaffirmed, along with the addition of “forest land” and “agricultural land” intended for conservation as required by 2006 legislation (HB 1141) and the Environmental Resources Element was incorporated to the Master Plan document at that time, and the supporting information and recommendations were updated.

### Protected Natural Resource Lands

#### ***State Implementation Program for Conservation of Natural Resource Lands***

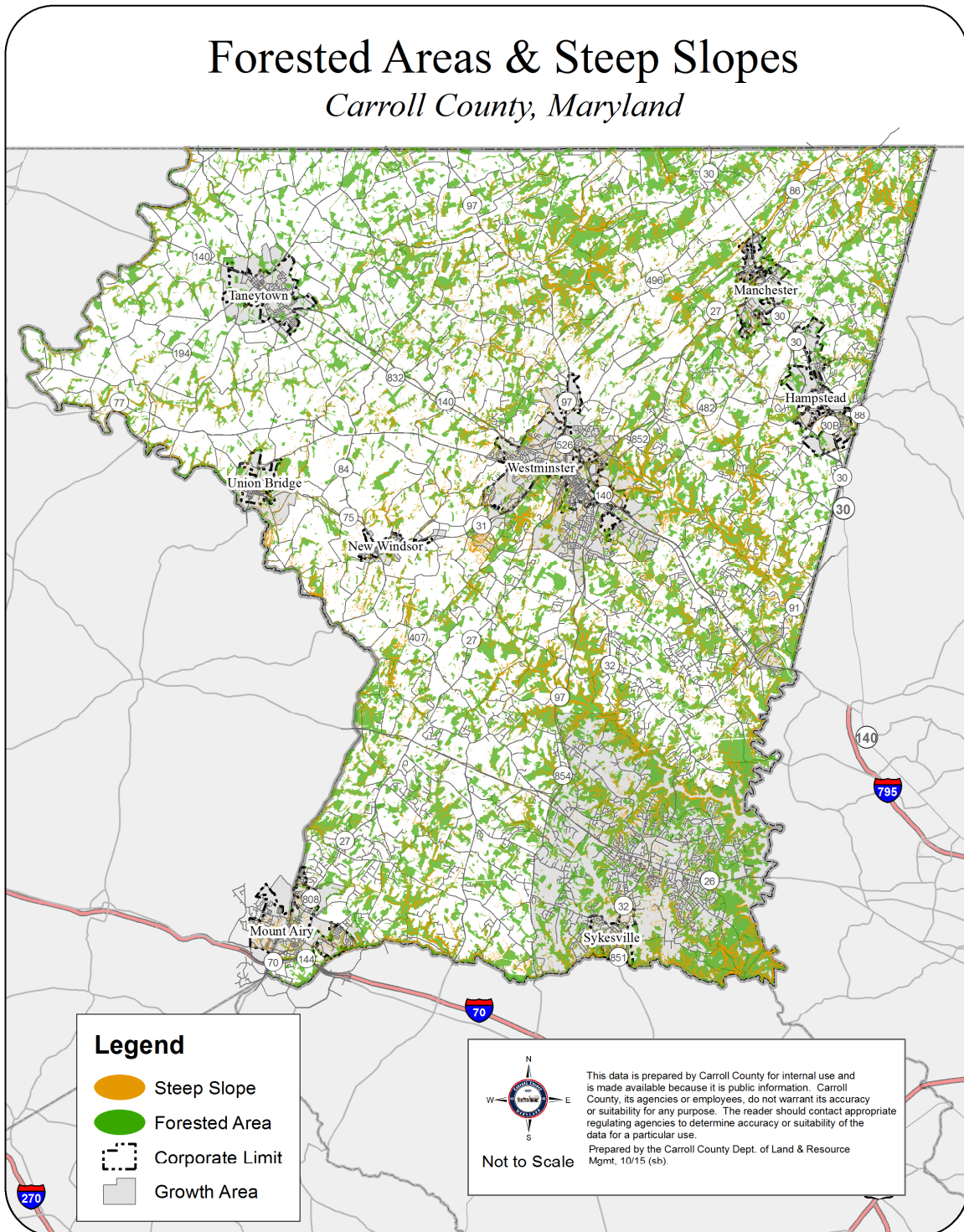
There are many land conservation programs operating throughout the State that work to protect natural resources, farmland and recreational open space. Each program has a unique conservation objective. Four of Maryland’s most active State operated land conservation programs are described below. The only program that directly targets “Targeted Ecological Areas” is Program Open Space - Stateside.

Please see Carroll County natural resource maps below.



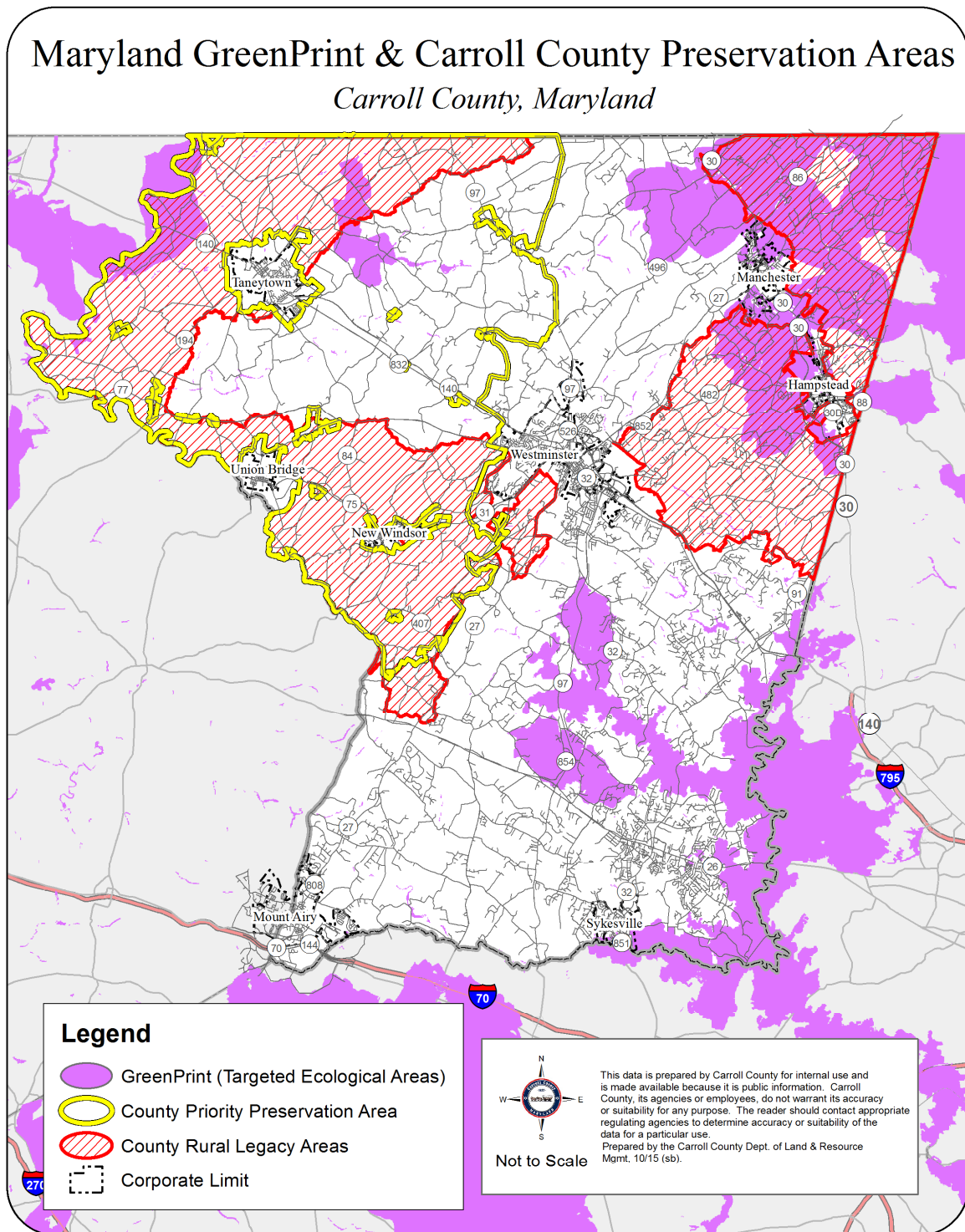
# 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

Map # 4 – Forested & Steep Slopes

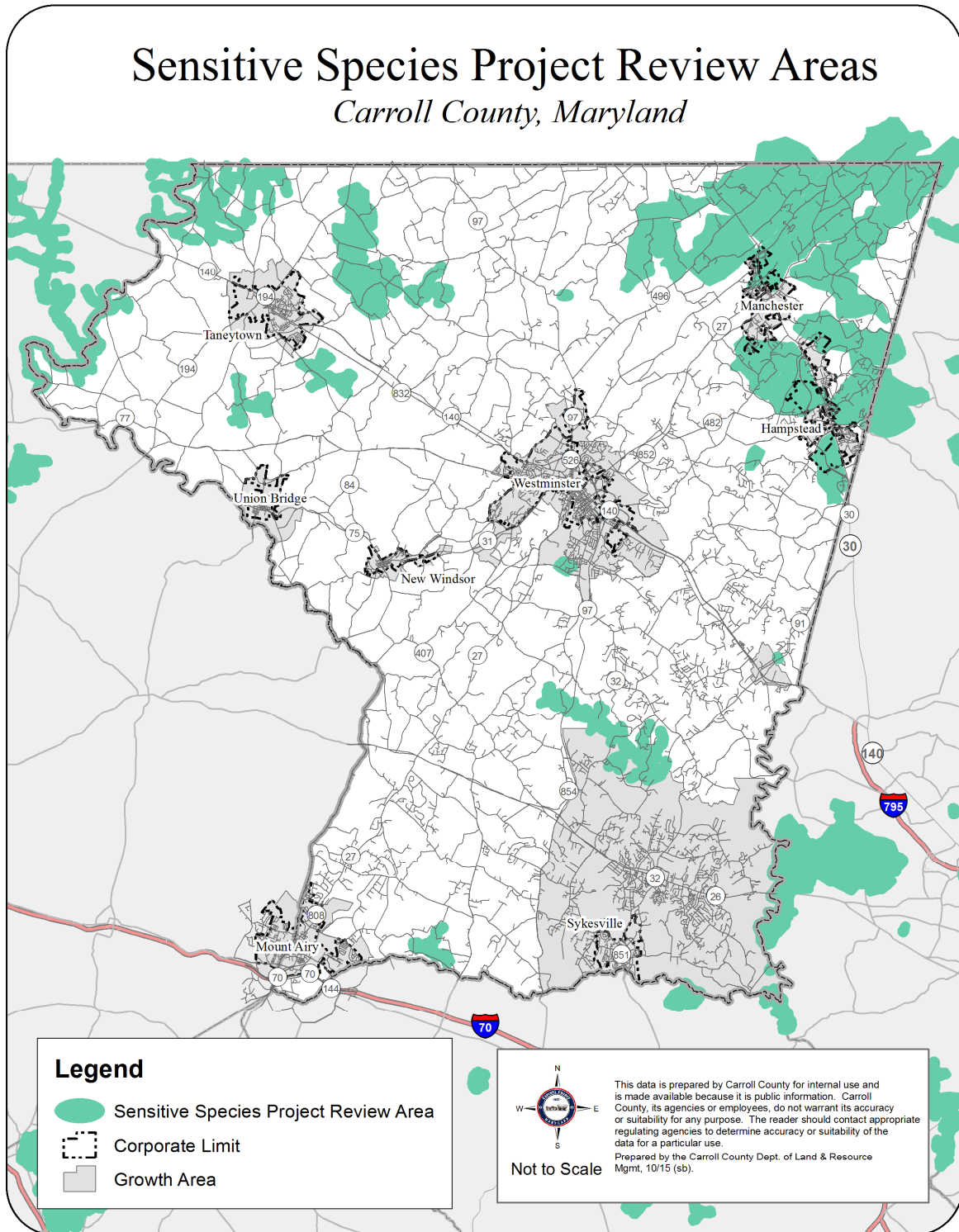


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Map # 5 – MD GreenPrint

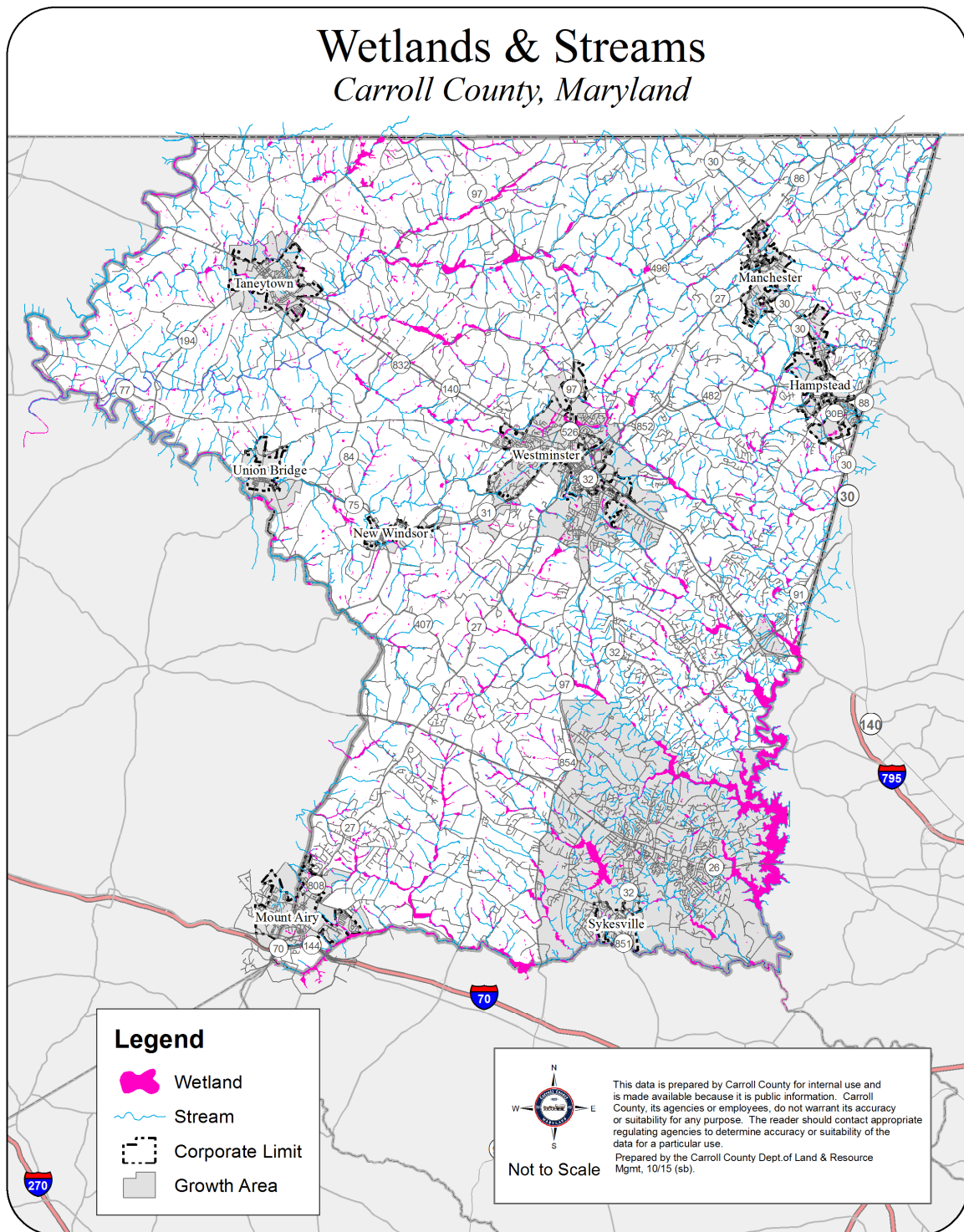


Map # 6 – Sensitive Species Areras

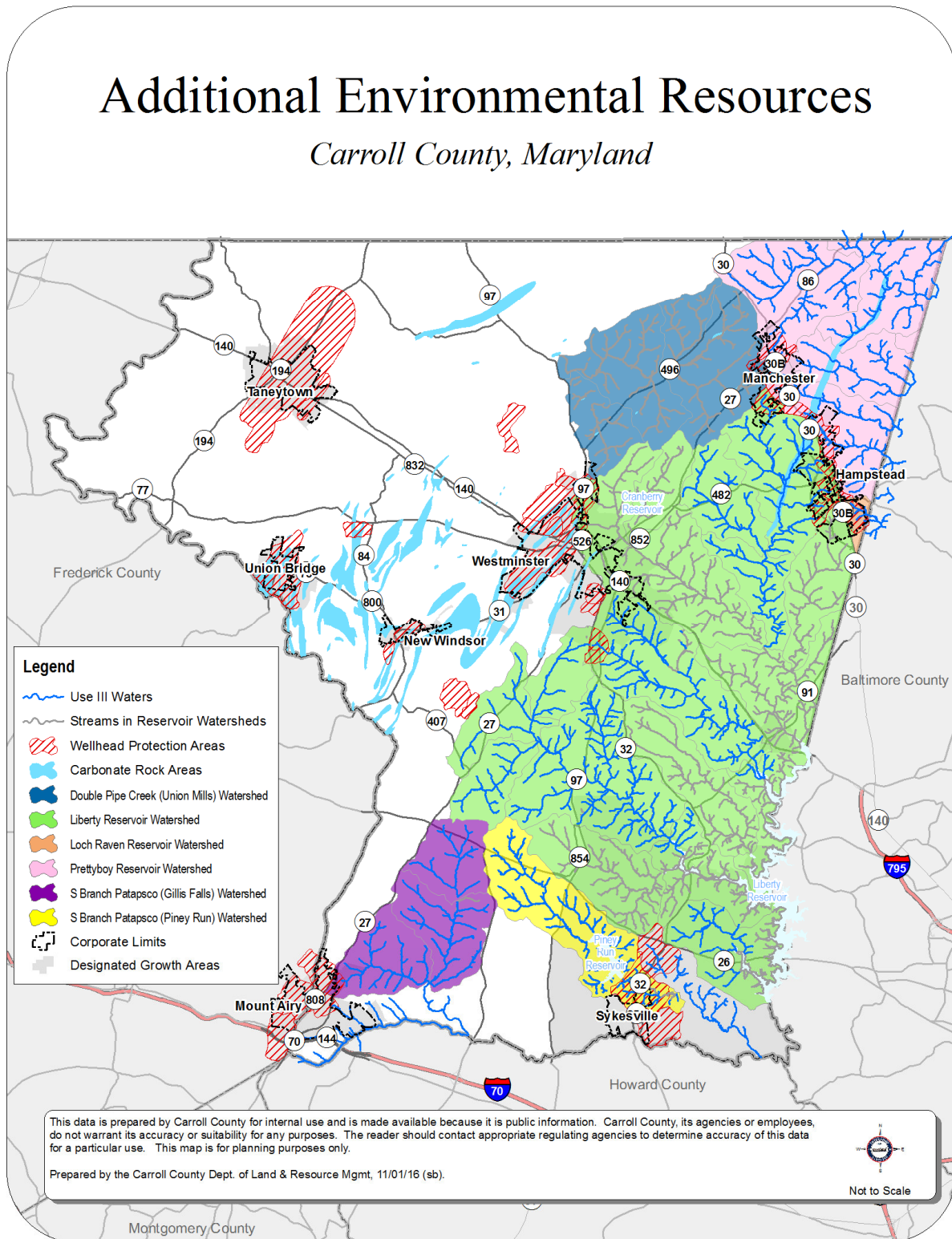




Map # 7 – Wetlands & Streams



## Map # 8 – Additional Environmental Resources





# 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

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## Local Implementing Ordinances and Programs

There are several tools used by Carroll County to protect natural resources within the county. One of the most powerful tools a county has at its disposal is its land use management authority. Carroll County's zoning ordinance and subdivision regulations are used to conserve natural resource lands and protect environmentally sensitive land from the impacts of subdivision, development, and other human activities or land uses.

The County Zoning Ordinance contains a number of zoning districts, including conservation zoning districts that are specifically designed to protect natural resources. The Conservation zone's stated purpose is "to prescribe a zoning category for those areas where, because of natural geographic factors and existing land uses, it is considered feasible and desirable to conserve open spaces, water supply sources, woodland areas, wildlife, and other natural resources." The Conservation district may include areas containing steep slopes, stream valleys, and water supply sources. The Conservation district helps to protect natural resources by limiting the types of uses permitted on the property to low impact land uses.

Several of the county's municipalities have included districts in their zoning ordinances that serve to protect natural resources within the county, as well. These towns and their respective zoning districts are:

### Hampstead

**Resource Protection Overlay Zone:** The purpose of this overlay zone is to provide for the protection and conservation of endangered and threatened animal species and wildlife and fisheries habitat by preventing development that would disrupt significant species and/or habitat and ensuring that the design of nearby development is done in such a manner as not to degrade significant species and/or habitat.

**Groundwater Conservation (G-C) District:** The purpose of this district is to provide the opportunity for environmentally sensitive commercial and/or industrial development while preserving significant environmental features, encouraging environmentally sensitive and sustainable "green" design and construction methods, minimizing impervious surface, maximizing groundwater recharge, and protecting the aquifer.

### New Windsor

**Conservation/Public Use (CPU) District:** The purpose of this district is to provide protection from preemptive uses of land meant for public and civic use or preservation of environmental resources and designated open space.

## 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

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### Taneytown

Open Space Zone: The purpose of this zone is to provide for areas where open space is preserved. All development or improvements within the district is directed toward the goal of providing parks, recreation areas, forests, and other natural areas.

The Carroll County Code includes numerous chapters that address environmental resource protection during land development. These regulations help the County implement some of its goals and objectives related to natural resource protection. The combination of regulatory and policy initiatives put forth strong measures that contribute to the formation of a green infrastructure.

### State Implementation Program for Conservation of Natural Resource Lands

In addition to the County efforts, there are many land conservation programs operating throughout the State that work to protect natural resources, farmland and recreational open space. Each program has a unique conservation objective. Four of Maryland's most active State operated land conservation programs are described below.

#### Program Open Space – Stateside:

Established in 1969 under the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Program Open Space (POS) symbolizes Maryland's long-term commitment to conserving natural resources while providing exceptional outdoor recreation opportunities. POS Stateside funds are used for the acquisition of parklands; forests; wildlife habitats; and natural, scenic, and cultural resources for public use.

#### Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation:

Since its inception in 1977, the primary purpose of the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) is to preserve sufficient agricultural land to maintain a viable local base of food and fiber production for present and future citizens of Maryland.



#### Maryland Environmental Trust:



The Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) is a statewide land trust operated by the Maryland DNR and governed by a Board of Trustees. Created in 1967, the program's goal is to preserve open land such as farmland, forest land, and significant natural resources. The program's primary tool is conservation easements donated by private landowners who want to preserve their land.

# 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

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## Other Programs

### Rural Legacy Program:

Lands that produce food and provide scenic open space, wildlife habitat, and clean water increasingly are at risk from development. The intent of the Rural Legacy Program (RLP) is to protect large, contiguous tracts of Maryland's most precious cultural and natural resources lands, with a special emphasis on productive forestry and agricultural landscapes.

Varieties of other programs that protect land from development operate at smaller or more localized scales and are funded by many different sources. A quick overview of these additional conservation tools follows.

Local Parks and County Lands – Program Open Space (POS) also has funds that it distributes to local governments (Program Open Space Local-side) for conserving recreational open space. These funds, in addition to other county and municipal conservation efforts, provide financial and technical assistance to local subdivisions for the planning, acquisition, and/or development of recreation land or open space areas.

Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) - MHT preserves historically significant properties and is operated through the Maryland Department of Planning's Division of Historical and Cultural Programs. Several properties in Carroll County have MHT preservation easements on them.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) - CREP, which receives funding from the US Department of Agriculture, protects water quality by removing marginal agricultural land from production and replacing it with best management practices including riparian buffers, stabilization of highly erodible soils and restoration of wetlands. Numerous farms in Carroll County have made use of this program.

Land Conservancy Programs - Numerous national and local land trusts operate within Maryland and conserve ecologically and agriculturally significant lands. The Carroll County Land Trust is the most active local land trust in the County.

## **Agricultural Lands**

### Executive Summary

The preservation of agricultural land and the continuation of agribusiness uses continues to be a major priority in Carroll County and working farms help define the rural character of Carroll County. Approximately 141,934 acres are currently being used for agriculture and 70,091 acres are permanently preserved for agriculture. The majority of the active farms in the County are on lands currently zoned Agricultural or Conservation.



# 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

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## Goals for Agricultural Land Preservation

### County Goals

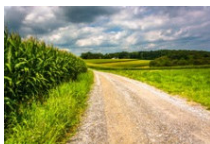
The 2014 county master plan, Carroll County: Challenges and Choices – A Master Plan for the Future, contains the following goal related to agricultural preservation:

- Preserve at least 100,000 acres of agricultural land to support the production of agricultural products and promotion of related agribusiness

In fact, Carroll County has had a goal of preserving at least 100,000 acres of productive farmland since 1998. This number represents over 70 percent of the total land in the county that is in agricultural production, and has long been considered the “critical mass” of land needed to keep farming and agribusinesses viable ventures. Prior to 2000, this goal was an unofficial target which spurred significant interest and investment in land preservation. With the adoption of the current County Master Plan in 2000, the goal of preserving “100,000 acres of tillable agricultural land for the production of agricultural products and promotion of related agribusiness” was formalized as part of the county’s policy agenda.

The County’s agricultural preservation goal was based on a reasoned evaluation that this was the minimum amount of land needed to support both a viable agricultural base and the associated agribusiness economy. It also represents approximately one third of Carroll’s total land area. Affirming this goal also indicates a significant level of commitment to agriculture both as a preferred land use and as an economic engine.

The State’s goal of protecting 1,030,000 acres of agricultural lands represents approximately 16.5 percent of the state’s total land area of 6,251,090 acres as reported in the 2007 Census of Agriculture. By comparison, Carroll County’s goal of 100,000 preserved acres represents approximately 35 percent of its 287,900 total acres.



Carroll County’s aggressive agricultural preservation goal of 100,000 acres is directed at protecting the land used for agriculture and maintaining an agricultural land base to ensure that farming will continue into the future. As of December 2016, 70,091 acres of farmland throughout the County were permanently preserved.

County has been actively preserving agricultural land since the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) was developed in 1977. Carroll County’s goals follow State goals closely through the County’s Environmental Resource Element (ERE) guideline that was established January 16, 1997 and incorporated into County Master Plan’s since. Adoption of the ERE by Carroll County and its eight municipalities ensures alignment with State’s conservation land preservation (Land Use Article, §3–102). As of December 1, 2016, 70,091 acres of farmland throughout the County were permanently preserved. In addition to preserved farmlands approximately 6,195 acres are preserved natural resource conservation lands.

# 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

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## State Goals

The following state goals and objectives form the core operating principals for agricultural preservation programs, funding mechanisms and cooperative inter-jurisdictional efforts:

1. Permanently preserve agricultural land capable of supporting a diversity of agricultural production.
2. Protect natural, forestry, and historic resources and the rural character of the landscape associated with Maryland's farmland.
3. To the greatest degree possible, concentrate preserved land in large, relatively contiguous blocks to effectively support long-term protection of resources and resource-based industries.
4. Limit the intrusion of development and its impacts on rural resources and resource-based industries.
5. Preserve approximately 1,030,000 acres of productive agricultural land by 2020.
6. Ensure good return on public investment by concentrating State agricultural land preservation funds in areas where the investment is reasonably well supported by both local investment and land use management programs.
7. Work with local governments to:
  - Establish preservation areas, goals, and strategies through local comprehensive planning processes that address and complement State goals;
  - In each area designated for preservation, develop a shared understanding of goals and the strategy to achieve them among rural landowners, the public at large, and State and local government officials;
  - Protect the equity interests of rural landowners in preservation areas by ensuring sufficient public commitment and investment in preservation through easement acquisition and incentive programs;
  - Use local land use management authority effectively to protect public investment in preservation by managing development in rural preservation areas; and
  - Establish effective measures to support profitable agriculture, including assistance in production, marketing, and the practice of stewardship, so that farming remains a desirable way of life for both the farmer and the public.





## 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

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### Easement Acquisition Mechanisms

Since the 2012 report and through FY 2016, the Carroll County Agricultural Land Preservation Program has preserved through the purchase of conservation easements 6,968 acres of qualifying agricultural land. Of these acres, 5,248 were placed under easement with the county-operated program. The remaining 1,720 acres were preserved either through the county's Critical Farms Program, which assists in the purchase of land and also requires an easement to be sold to the state MALPF program, or through the Rural Legacy Program.

Since the recommendations of the task force mentioned in the 2012 report, the County Commissioners have not pursued either the expansion of the transfer of development rights enabling law or any program to address portions of land that remain after a tract is developed, referred to as agricultural remainders. Remainders lack residential development potential but have a number of other development opportunities. Instead of pursuing these two mechanisms, efforts have been focused on yearly application cycles for new landowner applications for the county operated program, with significant success in securing easements on large and productive tracts throughout the county but primarily in the northwest, northeast, and central regions of the county. It should be mentioned, however, that the Carroll County Land Trust, a 501c(3) nonprofit organization, has been addressing the remainders issue, making an effort to contact owners of remainders to inform them of a 15-year county property tax credit for land preserved through a donated conservation easement. A small number of donated easements have since been secured by the CCLT.

Since 2012 the county has continued its use of leveraged installment purchase agreements as well as lump sum payment options for purchase of conservation easements. It has further developed cost containment in easement purchase while assuring fair easement values based on actual fair market values on a regional basis. The Agricultural Land Preservation Program, through the County Commissioners, accomplished this by adopting a points-based appraisal system, or formula, for determining the cost of easement purchases. This was done by developing a regional value system that provides the formula for any property in the county. All but one of 16 property owners accepted offers made using this system in the first year of its use.

# 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

## APPENDIX #1 INVENTORY

Site Name	East 83	North 83	Acres	Natural Areas	Water Access	Picnic Areas	Trails	Hunting Fishing	Parking	Other	Baseball/ Softball Fields	Multi purpose Field	Playground Play Structures	Basketball	Tennis Courts	Activity Building(s)	Notes
<b>County Parks and Recreation</b>																	
Aeromodeler's Park	1318339.89	730065.45	4.83	x		x			x								
Bark Hill Park	1271021.78	701564.41	32.46	x					x			2					
Bear Branch Nature Center	1316103.13	721118.92	56.73	x	x	x	x	Fishing	x				x				Nature Center, Planetarium, Observatory
Bennett Cerf Park	1318746.33	699427.20	7.40	x	Pond, stream	x	x	Fishing	x	Dog park	1		2			Concession	1 Baseball lighted
Cape Horn Park	1346296.47	720369.58	57.51	x	Marsh	x	x		x		3	3					Restroom
Carroll County Equestrian Center	1287884.02	624746.05	26.49	x	Streams	x	x		x	Horseback riding							Two show rings
Cherrytown Road Ball Field	1300874.95	734703.20	3.60	x		x			x		1					Concession	
Deer Park	1320123.00	671991.36	40.28	x	Pond	x	x	Fishing	x		2	3			2	Concession	Restroom
Deer Park Addition	1320068.40	670564.60	18.85	x					x			2					Land acquired, In Design
Detour Park (Double Pipe Creek)	1236420.89	705102.33	3.66	x	x	x	x	Fishing	x				1				
Freedom Park	1325143.77	618429.86	373.12	x		x	x		x		7	3				Concession	
Gillis Falls Reservoir Site	1287885.75	629887.60	925.50	x	Streams		x	Hunting/ Fishing	x								
Hap Baker Firearms Facility	1330199.91	689069.35	22.15	x					x							Office, Restrooms	Rifle and Handgun ranges, Restrooms
Hashawha Environmental Center	1313700.65	723156.60	384.69	x	Lake, Streams	x	x	Hunting/ Fishing	x				1			Environmental Center	Cabins, Pool, Raptor Center, 13.5 miles of trails
Hodges Park	1324478.06	639025.72	29.81	x					x		2	1				Pavilion	
Kate Wagner Road	1310897.96	683850.54	18.00	x					x		2	1				Pavilion	
Krimgold Park	1299229.10	641467.99	137.50	x	4 Ponds	x			x		4	5				Restroom, Pavilion	
Landon C. Burns Park	1314170.32	688085.26	11.98	x	Pond				x		2					Pavilion	
Leister Park	1356963.51	706889.89	100.70	x		x	x	Fishing	x			2	1			Pavilion	
Mayeski Park	1300423.14	648518.73	118.84	x		x			x		4	2	1			Pavilion	3 Baseball lighted
North Carroll Community Pond	1349092.23	719494.56	4.85	x	Pond	x		Fishing	x							Pavilions	
Obrecht Road Park	1312483.73	625400.56	3.20	x					x		1					Restroom	
Old Liberty Road Park	1315238.76	638579.34	8.84	x					x		1	1					
Piney Run Park	1316588.96	629579.90	831.23	x	300 AC Lake	x	x	Fishing	x							Concession, Pavilions	Nature Center, Fishing/Boating Piers, Boat Rentals
Salt Box Park	1288920.20	627911.21	114.71	x					x		2					Pavilion	
Sandymount Park	1335967.09	675095.42	22.13	x		x	x		x		3	2	1	2		Pavilion	1 Lighted Baseball Field
Carroll County Sports Complex	1311804.10	718679.91	84.84	x		x	x		x		5	2				Concession, Pavilions	3 Lighted Baseball Fields
Union Mills Reservoir	1314662.67	726088.30	1,131.21	x	Streams		x	Hunting/ Fishing	x								
Westminster Community Pond	1313719.78	701326.51	31.41	x	Pond	x	x	Fishing	x				2	1			Pavilion, Playground
Westminster Veterans Memorial Park	1317335.44	684142.64	32.00								2	1					Land acquired, In Design
Winfield Park	1296450.54	651146.24	9.16								1	1					Land acquired, in Construction

Site Name	East 83	North 83	Acres	Natural Areas	Water Access	Picnic Areas	Trails	Hunting Fishing	Parking	Other	Baseball/ Softball Fields	Multipurpose Field	Playground Play Structures	Basketball	Tennis Courts	Activity Building(s)	Notes
<b>Public Schools</b>																	
Carroll Springs School	1314639.61	689689.13	5.83	x					x		1	1				Gym	special needs school, indoor pool
Carrolltowne Elementary School	1331002.32	62902.18	18.72								1			1			
Charles Carroll Elementary School	1302482.83	732312.21	11.67	x					x		1	2	1			Gym	
Cranberry Station Elementary School	1318430.68	694441.70	15.69	x					x		1	1	1			Gym	
Ebb Valley Elementary School	1343598.83	731915.14	18.90	x					x		1	1	1			Gym	
Eldersburg Elementary School	1324291.14	634891.27	29.79	x					x		3	3	1	2		Gym	
Elmer Wolfe Elementary School	1262358.58	695661.03	17.07	x					x			1		2		Gym	
Freedom District Elementary School	1328207.17	638309.42	9.49	x		x			x		1					Gym	
Friendship Valley Elementary School	1310897.96	683850.54	33.44	x		x			x		3		2	2	2	Gym	
Hampstead Elementary School	1351367.73	704920.88	18.73	x			x		x		1	3	2			Gym	
Linton Springs Elementary School	1315755.57	639423.21	26.63	x					x		1	3		2		Gym	
Manchester Elementary School	1345047.40	727587.01	19.52	x			x		x		2	2	1	1		Gym	
Mechanicsville Elementary School	1328570.25	656124.16	11.59	x					x		2	2	1	2		Gym	
Mt. Airy Elementary School	1270320.65	624283.78	7.22	x			x		x		1	1	1	1		Gym	
Parr's Ridge Elementary School	1270699.56	623367.40	23.38	x			x		x		1	2		1		Gym	
Piney Ridge Elementary School	1323404.10	631679.98	13.12	x					x		1	2		2		Gym	
Robert Moton Elementary School	1314223.63	680343.56	19.26						x			1	1	1		Gym	
Runnymede Elementary School	1283695.46	714421.24	31.99	x					x		1	2	2	1		Gym	
Sandymount Elementary School	1335299.14	675678.58	8.03	x		x	x		x		1		1	1		Gym	
Spring Garden Elementary School	1357170.75	701621.84	19.97	x					x		2	3	2			Gym	
Taneytown Elementary School	1264221.58	723238.35	10.37	x					x			1	1	2		Gym	
Westminster Elementary School	1305086.45	696510.50	19.42	x					x		1	1		2		Gym	
William Winchester Elementary School	1313911.27	697141.23	4.70						x		1	1	1			Gym	
Winfield Elementary School	1297046.71	650606.07	15.55	x		x			x		1	1	1	2		Gym	
Mt. Airy Middle School	1270808.98	624109.42	14.65	x					x		1	2		1		Gym	
New Windsor Middle School	1280620.16	685396.21	33.41	x			x		x		2	1		2		Gym	
North Carol Middle School	1349985.45	719563.63	27.74	x					x		1	1		1		Gym	1 lighted Baseball field
Northwest Middle School	1265607.02	722783.65	35.79	x			x		x		2	2	1	2		Gym	
Oklahoma Road Middle School	1331771.21	632100.28	31.61	x					x		1	1		2		Gym	
Shiloh Middle School	1351500.18	704107.30	10.77	x					x		2	1		2		Gym	
Sykesville Middle School	1322148.46	621622.02	19.40	x			x		x		1	2		4		Gym	Skateboard Court
Westminster East Middle School	1315502.19	695313.01	21.06						x		1	3		3		Gym	Running Track
Westminster West Middle School	1313806.89	697793.19	22.97			x			x		2	2	1			Gym	
Century High School	1314675.88	63989.17	59.84	x			x		x		3	3	1	4	6	Gym	Stadium
Francis Scott Key High School	1274519.85	700965.53	49.39	x			x		x		1	4	1	5	5	Gym	Stadium
Gateway School	1314944.50	680280.58	10.30	x		x	x		x			1				Gym	
Liberty High School	1326136.95	636194.24	47.18	x			x		x		2	4	1	2	6	Gym	Stadium
Manchester Valley High School	1346994.74	724086.04	95.58	x			x		x		2	3	1	2	6	Gym	Stadium
North Carroll High School	1351139.25	707334.25	56.23	x			x		x		2	3		2	6	Gym	Stadium
South Carroll High School	1300894.12	647151.63	30.14	x			x		x		1	4		4	6	Gym	Stadium
Westminster High School	1314738.40	682451.27	70.19	x			x		x		2	2		4	5	Gym	Stadium
Winters Mill High School	1318812.22	693881.45	39.73	x			x		x		3	3	1		6	Gym	Stadium
<b>Total County Owned Parks and Recreation Lands</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>5,733.74</b>														

Site Name	East 83	North 83	Acres	Natural Areas	Water Access	Picnic Areas	Trails	Hunting Fishing	Parking	Other	Baseball/ Softball Fields	Multipurpose Field	Playground Play Structures	Basketball	Tennis Courts	Activity Building(s)	Notes
<b>Other Public Access Lands</b>																	
Carroll County Bird Sanctuary	1274915.36	686708.18	13.81	x			x										
Carroll County Farm Museum	1313458.84	688765.65	77.84	x	Pond	x	x	Fishing	x							Historic Farm	Cultural Education
Carroll Community College	1314802.66	678844.44	69.32	x		x			x	Vball	1	5				Art Center	
Dulaney Property	1316362.91	642293.25	88.17														Land Acquired
Former New Windsor Middle School	1281505.99	684175.09	1.12	x					x								Undeveloped
Hanover Municipal Watershed	1327635.76	746567.01	356.27	x			x		x								
Liberty Reservoir	1339763.74	642687.46	587.81	x	Reservoir			Fishing	x								
Leishear Property (IDA)	1275020.70	628269.04	100.00														Land Acquired
Quaker Hill Property	1266036.17	689983.30	11.30														
Union Mills Homestead	1307793.99	728861.30	38.27	x		x	x		x								Historic Homestead
Watersville Road Park	1280791.56	626190.65	123.31	x					x								Land Acquired
<b>Total Other Access Public Lands</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>1,467.22</b>														
<b>Publicly Accessable Quasi Public Lands</b>																	
Bear Creek Golf Course	1309801.44	714962.43	119.84	x					x	Golf						Clubhouse	Driving Range
Beaver Run Fish and Game Club	1340582.73	665485.36	25.13	x				Hunting/ Fishing	x								
Boxwood Drive Ballfield	1357731.46	702425.82	16.06	x					x								
Camp Farthest Out	1303841.14	634326.04	30.51	x			x		x	Camping							
Carroll County Gun Club	1312245.24	642681.21	25.03	x	Stream	x	x	Hunting/ Fishing	x								
Carroll Indoor Sports Center	1318277.38	689534.66	5.99			x			x								Indoor soccer fields
Cascade Lake	1343658.97	710693.19	28.83	x	Lake	x	x	Fishing	x								
Crowltowne Open Space	1316414.56	694464.56	3.84														
Deep Run Boy Scout Camp	1317228.61	734312.87	57.96	x	Stream	x	x	Fishing	x		1						
Four Seasons Sports Complex	1340555.04	707996.81	18.35	x		x	x		x	Mini Golf				1	1	Gym	Indoor soccer fields, Outdoor Pool
Freedom Swim Club	1327405.74	637616.02	6.38	x		x	x		x							Concession	Pool
Links at Challedon	1279391.21	635001.08	98.06	x		x	x		x	Golf						Clubhouse	18 holes/Driving Range
McDaniel College	1311640.13	699316.45	67.80	x					x		2	4		6	4		
McDaniel College Golf Course	1310778.88	699476.17	35.86	x		x	x		x	Golf						Clubhouse	9 holes
Mountain View Bible Camp	1334686.18	740853.42	32.18	x		x			x		1						
North Carroll Farms	1354983.66	713541.17	3.15	x					x				1				
North Carroll Farms Park	1353094.28	711426.30	9.09	x					x								
North Carroll Farms Park	1353094.28	711426.30	0.01	x					x								
North Carroll Farms Park	1353094.28	711426.30	0.01	x					x								
Oakmount Green Golf Course	1352342.06	717432.57	148.71	x	Pond	x	x		x	Golf						Clubhouse	18 holes and Driving Range
Piney Branch Golf & Country Club	1357631.07	696855.40	3.87	x		x	x		x	Golf							Mostly in Balto County
Players Family Amusement Center	1318303.46	688941.67	6.54						x								
Rambling Pines Campground	1304895.16	617887.90	140.97	x		x	x		x	VB			1			Activity	Camp sites
River Downs Golf Club	1346044.17	675141.38	178.00	x		x	x		x	Golf						Clubhouse	18 holes and Driving Range
River Valley Ranch	1365595.95	739650.13	169.26	x		x	x		x				1			Art Center	Camping
Roaring Run Park	1346032.99	663191.68	11.30	x		x			x		3		1				
South Carroll Swim Club	1294664.29	650121.00	30.46	x		x	x		x							Clubhouse	Pool
Taylorville Winfield Lions Club Park	1296080.36	649376.54	3.40						x		2						
Union Mills Lions Club Park	1306924.83	729063.57	5.46		Pond	x	x	Fishing	x								
Westminster Island Green Driving Range	1296110.24	706650.79	30.93	x		x			x	Golf						Clubhouse	
<b>Total Publicly Accessable Quasi Public Lands</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>1,312.98</b>														

Site Name	East 83	North 83	Acres	Natural Areas	Water Access	Picnic Areas	Trails	Hunting Fishing	Parking	Other	Baseball/ Softball Fields	Multipurpose Field	Playground Play Structures	Basketball	Tennis Courts	Activity Building(s)	Notes
<b>Town Parks and Recreation Lands</b>																	
<b>Hampstead</b>																	
Chief Sites Memorial Park	1357058.12	705223.81	1.57	x	Pond	x			x	Skate Park			1				
Kimberly Village	1356266.03	705128.88	2.15	x					x				2				
Lions Club Park	1355899.77	707519.09	36.54	x		x			x		6		1			Concession	
Main Street Memorial Park	1313776.84	694789.98	0.05						x	Band Stand							War Memorial
Melvin Miller Memorial Park	1313776.84	694789.99	1.58			x			x					1	2		
Hampstead Municipal Park	1353269.72	707446.28	14.85	x		x	x		x	Volleyball	2	1	2			Pavilion	
Oden Kemp Park	1354983.66	713541.18	1.18						x				1	1			
Sugar Maple Park	1317450.22	622323.46	2.46	x		x			x				1				
<b>Manchester</b>																	
Charlotte's Quest	1345324.34	728882.41	13.32	x	Stream	x	x		x							Visitors Center	
Christmas Tree Park	1347502.60	728034.89	45.53	x		x	x		x		1	1		1		Pavilions	
Crossroads Overlook Playground	1341595.18	727418.76	1.00	x			x		x				3				
Manchester Carnival Grounds	1346343.98	727741.23	5.05						x							Activity	Concession
Hallie Hills Walking Trail	1341136.32	732412.20	2.00	x			x										
Lions Club Pool	1346699.99	727621.66	4.07			x			x							Concession	Two Pools
Pine Valley Park	1345139.65	729404.36	66.68	x		x	x		x								
Skateboard Park	1343018.41	726753.85	3.87	x					x								Skateboard Park
Southwestern Avenue Athletic Field	1343695.58	722080.53	2.00									1					
Westside Memorial Park	1342686.50	726568.54	10.21	x					x								
<b>Mount Airy</b>																	
Mt. Airy Rails to Trails Trail	1273530.68	621133.39	2.02	x			x		x								
Summit Ridge Park	1269345.78	626146.41	27.00	x					x		1	1	1				
Vest Pocket Park	1269851.86	623833.69	0.5						x								
Watkins Park	1271234.93	622988.14	20.97	x		x	x		x	Vball	2	1	1	1	2		Skateboard Park, Dog Park
Wildwood Park	1268841.66	620812.86	2.3	x			x		x								
<b>New Windsor</b>																	
Atlee Ridge Open Space	1280917.50	682445.92	15.46						x				1				
New Windsor Lagoon Property	1280647.44	683970.07	6.42								2	1					Construction 2018
New Windsor Fire Company Grounds	12813224.81	684073.84	0.68						x								
New Windsor Town Park	1283089.76	683263.97	1.77						x								
Siebel's Field Ball Park (Lehigh)	1281680.80	681899.49	10.77	x					x		1						
Sulphur Springs Park	1281173.19	683643.34	0.86						x								
<b>Sykesville</b>																	
Beach Park	1319722.23	620446.05	0.15						x								
Bloomfield Park	1317947.06	623338.85	3.4	x					x				1				
Harold Burkett Park	1318768.44	622320.92	6.08						x								
Jones Park	1317948.02	621295.10	0.43						x								
Lexington Run Park	1318895.76	620299.18	0.4						x								
Little Sykes Railway Park	1320997.26	618320.53	0.51	x					x								1949 12 Gauge Railway
Millard Cooper Park	1321621.52	622247.02	8.32						x								
Old Main Line Park	1320879.31	618464.57	0.08						x								
Shannon Run park	1317836.34	619782.93	1.32						x								
Sykesville Linear Park Trail	1317450.22	622323.46	13.88						x								



Site Name	East 83	North 83	Acres	Natural Areas	Water Access	Picnic Areas	Trails	Hunting Fishing	Parking	Other	Baseball/ Softball Fields	Multipurpose Field	Playground Play Structures	Basketball	Tennis Courts	Activity Building(s)	Notes
<b>Taneytown</b>																	
Bollinger Property	1266710.88	730901.89	51.26				x		x								
Flickinger Park	1268256.00	724831.00	3.02						x				1				
Roberts Mill Park	1266295.52	723960.28	25.72		x	3			x			4	1	1			
Roth Avenue Park	1266295.52	723960.28	1.52			1			x				1				
Taneytown High School Park and Skate Park	1264458.98	725571.65	6.28						x		2		2				Skate park
Taneytown Memorial Park	1260564.33	726756.94	35.21		x	8			x		5	2	3	1	3		
<b>Union Bridge</b>																	
Little Pipe Creek Park	1264142.68	693658.55	34.79	x	x		x	Fishing	x								
Union Bridge Community Center Park	1264703.73	691870.96	8.73			2	x		x								
Union Bridge Train Station	1262306.89	693472.74	0.47						x								
<b>Westminster</b>																	
Avondale Run Ballfield Park	1305870.63	692627.47	2.85						x		1						
Belle Grove Square Park	1312707.02	695118.87	0.68						x								Fountain, Benches
Bishop's Garth Park	1314355.80	690897.75	2.13						x				1				
Charles Street Playground	1314535.77	691106.88	0.87						x				1				
Dutterer Family Park	1313093.14	697679.56	10.21			1	x		x		1	1	1				
Green's Tot lot	1305269.51	698306.06	0.24						x				1				
Jaycee Park	1307056.80	698075.81	10.23						x		3	2	1				
King Park	1311710.41	695210.50	5.74			1			x				1				
Lime Kiln Interpretive Park	1306168.73	693247.92	4.76						x								
Locust Lane Park	1313770.06	694792.90	0.05						x								
Longwell Municipal Center	1314276.16	694585.52	0.48						x					1			Rec/fitness
Tahoma Farm Boulder Park	1305696.44	692724.50	1.63				x		x				1				
Uniontown Road Athletic Field Park	1309351.68	698061.57	3.94						x			1					
Wakefield Valley Community Trail	1302847.91	689896.92	0.8				x		x								
Wakefield Valley Golf Course	1302998.68	693101.09	241.02	x			x		x								18 hole, clubhouse, concession
Westminster City Playground	1314663.78	694256.64	5.54			3			x		2	1	3				
Westminster Municipal Park	1314654.62	694286.62	4.51						x								
Westminster Municipal Pool and Community Center	1304935.87	698232.28	1.92										3				
Westminster Skate Park	1314760.87	695447.84	0.87						x								
Whispering Meadows Community Park	1307169.40	698526.91	0.82						x				1				
<b>Total Town Parks and Recreation Lands</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>803.72</b>														
<b>Total Carroll County Parks &amp; Recreation Lands</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>NA</b>	<b>9,317.66</b>														

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<b>Carroll County Acreage Summary</b>	NA	NA	<b>NA</b>	Acres/1,000
<b>Carroll County Parks and Recreation Lands</b>	NA	NA	<b>8,004.68</b>	47.09
<b>Carroll County Publicly Accessable Quasi Public Lands</b>	NA	NA	<b>1,312.98</b>	7.72
<b>Total Carroll County Parks and Recreation Lands</b>			<b>9,317.66</b>	54.81
<b>Preserved Agricultural Lands</b>	NA	NA	<b>70,091.00</b>	412.30
<b>Natural Resource Lands</b>	NA	NA	<b>6,195.00</b>	36.44
<b>Historic/Cultural Lands</b>	NA	NA	<b>116</b>	0.68
<b>Total Carroll County Public Access Lands</b>	NA	NA	<b>95,037.43</b>	559.04
<b>State Parks and Lands in Carroll County</b>	<b>East 83</b>	<b>North 83</b>	<b>NA</b>	Acres/1,000
<b>Avondale WMA</b>	1306456.28	689004.30	<b>177.00</b>	1.04
<b>Hugg-Thomas WMA in Carroll County</b>	1317067.63	617633.32	<b>6.00</b>	0.04
<b>Morgan Run NEA</b>	1316075.09	657658.98	<b>1,930.00</b>	11.35
<b>Patapsco Valley State Park in Carroll County</b>	1336176.38	616253.75	<b>2,754.00</b>	16.20
<b>Total State Lands in Carroll County</b>	NA	NA	<b>4,867.00</b>	28.63

# 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

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## APPENDIX # 2 RESOURCES

**2014 Carroll County Masterplan, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners,**  
February 26, 2015 <http://ccgovernment.carr.org/ccg/compplanning/MasterPlan/2014/>

**2014 Carroll County Recreation and Parks survey**

**2016 Carroll County Recreation and Parks survey**

**2016 Carroll County Bicycle and Pedestrian survey**

2017 Recreation Facilities interactive map with inventory interface hyperlink  
<https://carrollco-md.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5a9afdbc80d7416097568fa4ed859ae2>

**2017 Maryland Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan Guidelines:**  
[http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Documents/Stewardship/2017\\_LPPRP-Guidelines.pdf](http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Documents/Stewardship/2017_LPPRP-Guidelines.pdf)

**Maryland Land Preservation and Recreation Plan 2014-2018:**  
Maryland's current Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)  
[http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Pages/Stewardship/LPRP\\_2014-2018.aspx](http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Pages/Stewardship/LPRP_2014-2018.aspx)

**Maryland Department of Natural Resources Yearly Acreage Report (2016 report):**  
Annual report on DNR owned and maintained land units and their total acreage.  
<http://dnr.maryland.gov/land/Documents/Stewardship/CurrentAcreageReport.pdf>

**Maryland Trail Atlas:**  
An interactive mapping tool for state and locally managed land and water trails and access points.  
<http://maryland.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=242debcc18ae4057827834b78ddb83a>

**Maryland DNR GeoSpatial Data Center:**  
Downloadable GIS data maintained by the Department of Natural Resources.  
<http://dnrweb.dnr.state.md.us/gis/data/>

**Maryland State Park Visitor's Use and Services Survey Results:**  
Results from Goucher Poll of Maryland residents perspectives on state parks.  
<http://www.goucher.edu/Documents/Maryland%20State%20Parks%20Survey%20Release%202012-2-14.pdf>

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### **Maryland State Parks Economic Impact and Visitor Study 2010:**

Comprehensive study of state park visitation and its economic impact.

[http://www.friendsofmdparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Maryland\\_State\\_Parks\\_Economic-Impact-Study-2010.pdf](http://www.friendsofmdparks.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Maryland_State_Parks_Economic-Impact-Study-2010.pdf)

### **Maryland Department of Transportation – State Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan**

Maryland's 20-year vision and plan for supporting cycling and walking as part of the state's multimodal transportation network.

<http://www.mdot.maryland.gov/BikeWalkPlan>

### **Maryland Recreation and Parks Association (MRPA):**

Statewide group for parks and recreation professionals and advocates that offers networking, training and advocacy opportunities.

<http://www.mrpanet.org/>

### **Maryland Association of Counties (MACO):**

Non-profit organization serving Maryland counties by articulating and advocating local needs to the State's General Assembly.

<http://www.mdcounties.org/>

### **National Recreation and Parks Association – PRORAGIS:**

Non-profit organization focused on advancement of public parks, recreation and conservation. Their PRORAGIS (Parks and Recreation Operating Ratio and GIS system) tool allows for park agencies to upload their data, examine their facilities and operations and compare them with other organizations utilizing the tool.

<https://www.nrpa.org/PRORAGIS/>

### **National Recreation and Parks Association – Recreation focused Reports, Studies and Tools:**

Non-profit organization focused on advancement of public parks, recreation and conservation with research papers and reports on park and recreation ties to economics, public health, transportation, etc.

<http://www.nrpa.org/research-papers/>

### **Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals – Technical Resources:**

Non-profit group focused on outdoor recreation, natural and cultural resource preservation and sustainable access to recreational opportunities. Links to resources, guides and reports on various natural resource based recreation topics.

<http://www.recpro.org/technical-resources>

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### **Trust for Public Land:**

Non-profit organization focused on research, advocacy, planning, land acquisition, design and funding for parks, playgrounds, trails, gardens and natural areas.

<https://www.tpl.org/>

### **The Physical Activity Council - 2016 Participation Report**

Physical Activity Council, (PAC), is a partnership of eight of the major trade associations in US sports, fitness, and leisure industries. This Overview Report summarizes “topline” data about levels of activity in the US, establishes levels of activity and identifies key trends in sports, fitness, and recreation participation in the US.

<http://www.physicalactivitycouncil.com/pdfs/current.pdf>

### **State of Maryland Children in Nature Survey in 2008**

[http://dnr2.maryland.gov/cin/PartnerMeetingDocs/CN\\_Dec19\\_2008\\_Survey\\_Summary.pdf](http://dnr2.maryland.gov/cin/PartnerMeetingDocs/CN_Dec19_2008_Survey_Summary.pdf)

### **Chesapeake Bay Trust Marylanders in the Environment**

Statewide survey on stewardship and engagement

[www.cbtrust.org/atf/cf/.../Survey%20Presentation%20from%20OpinionWorks.ppt](http://www.cbtrust.org/atf/cf/.../Survey%20Presentation%20from%20OpinionWorks.ppt)



# 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

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## APPENDIX # 3 SURVEYS

### 2014 Recreation and Parks Needs Assessment Survey

#### Background & Participant Information

- First completely random needs assessment survey completed by department
- Survey was conducted between November 2014 and January 2015
- 620 randomly selected households (approximately 1% of all county households)
- Goal of 20% response rate established (120 surveys)
- Families were contacted by mail with an email link to complete survey with follow up phone calls to those who had not responded
- 18% response rate (110 completed surveys received)
- Survey respondents reported the following household income: 32% over \$100,000; 23% over 75%; 21% over \$50,000; 19% over \$25,000 and 5% under \$25,000
- Survey respondents were 60% female, 40% male
- 78% of respondents lived in Carroll County over 15 years; 7% 11-15 years; 7% 6-10 years and 8% under 5 years

#### Notable Results

- **Of those households who have visited a county park, the top three responses were:**
  - Piney Run 30%
  - Carroll Arts Center 21%
  - Hashawha/Bear Branch 20%
- *74% of those who visited county parks found them to be in very good or excellent condition – special thanks and recognition to department maintenance staff and Carroll County Bureau of Facilities as well as thousands of volunteers who supplement those efforts*
- *80% of those who participated in county recreation programs rated overall quality as very good or excellent*
- **Top 5 reasons why household used Carroll County Recreation & Parks programs:**
  - Close to home/convenient
  - Enjoyment of the outdoors
  - Improve physical fitness and health
  - Facilities are clean and well maintained
  - Fees are affordable

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- *32% felt there were sufficient parks and recreation facilities within walking distance, 45% felt there were not enough*
  
- **Top recreation and parks facilities most important to households:**
  - Paved walking and bike trails (76%)
  - Nature trails (47%)
  - Park shelters and picnic areas (38%)
  - Playground equipment (27%)
  - Soccer/lacrosse fields (25%)
  - Off leash dog areas (23%)
  - Baseball/softball fields (19%)
  - Outdoor swimming and spray grounds (19%)
  - Campground (16%)
  - Indoor basketball/volleyball courts (14%)
  - Mountain bike trails (14%)
  - Community gardens (14%)
  
- **Top recreation and parks programs most important to households:**
  - Adult fitness & wellness (61%)
  - Special events/festivals (52%)
  - Senior programs (37%)
  - Youth sports (26%)
  - Nature education programs (25%)
  - Outdoor adventure programs (25%)
  - Education/life skills programs (21%)
  - Adult art, dance and music (19%)
  - Youth summer camps (13%)
  - Youth fitness and wellness (12%)
  - Adult sports (10%)
  
- **Top 5 ways your household learns about Recreation and Parks activities**
  - Newspaper (53%)
  - From friends & neighbors (43%)
  - Recreation and Parks program guides (26%)
  - Web site (21%)
  - Flyers (12%)
  
- **Most important benefits provide by Recreation and Parks to your household**
  - Provide healthy recreational opportunities (76%)
  - Improve physical health & fitness (67%)
  - Improve the quality of life in Carroll County (67%)
  - Protect open space and environment (58%)
  - Contribute to a sense of community (56%)

## 2017 Land Preservation, Parks & Recreation Plan

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- **Actions your household would be most willing to fund with county tax dollars**
  - Fix up/repair older parks and facilities (66%)
  - Upgrade existing parks (60%)
  - Develop new and connect existing walking/bicycle trails (55%)
  - Purchase land to preserve open space (35%)
  - Develop new special events (21%)
- *80% of households are supportive of Carroll County Parks being designated as tobacco free; 11% not supportive*
- *87% of households feel that Recreation and Parks programs and facilities are important to their quality of life*
- One third of responding households strongly agree that Recreation and Parks increases property values in surrounding areas, improves water and air quality and helps reduce crime
- With regards to artificial turf fields, 30% of responding households are very supportive as a means to improve local parks, 23% are not supportive; 18% support use of county tax dollars to accomplish this goal

### SUMMARY

- Despite having annual program registration of over 55,000 and park/program attendance of over 1.8 million:
  - 19% had not visited a county park in the last 12 months
  - 51% had not participated in a Recreation & Parks program in the past 12 months
  - 41 surveys returned with additional comments – (22%) of those comments referenced a lack of awareness of parks and programs and identified a need for more or better marketing and community outreach

#### Conclusions

- - Survey results confirm previously received verbal feedback from citizens regarding the need and support for additional bicycle and pedestrian trails
  - Households identified benefits of recreation and parks programs and facilities *regardless of whether they themselves participated during the past 12 months*
  - More resources need to be directed towards publicizing and promoting existing recreational opportunities that are currently available to the public

## APPENDIX # 4 LPPRP PUBLIC MEETING AGENDA



### **Why does the LPPRP have to be updated?**

Program Open Space is the largest source of funds for Carroll County's capital budget for parks. In order to remain eligible to receive these funds, counties must update their LPPRP every five (5) years



### **Why should Carroll County update the LPPRP?**

1. Update inventory of assets and user demand info
2. Perform service analysis to identify deficiencies and opportunities
3. Develop strategies to meet goals and address deficiencies, improving county parks and recreational facilities for next 5 years
4. Updated plan provides direction and serves as a tool to help guide the capital improvement plan
5. Adopted goals serve as further justification for funding (CIP, grants, etc.)



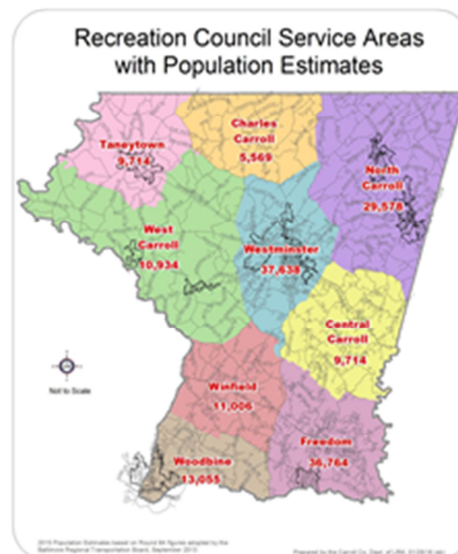
### What Has Changed?

Prior to 2015, primary consideration was meeting state goal of 30 acres of park land and open space/1,000 residents. Carroll County currently has 8,868 acres of park land and open space (52 acres/ 1,000 residents). In addition, nearly 70,000 acres of farmland have been permanently preserved in Carroll County

New plan will also consider current asset inventory, proximity analysis and identification of needs not met

### Citizen Input Opportunities

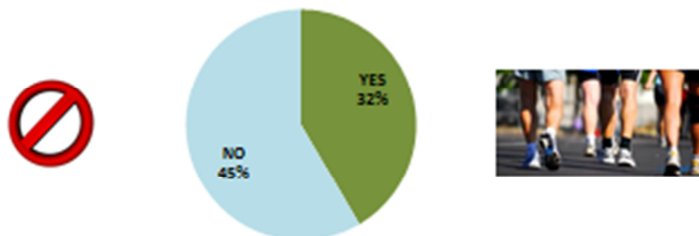
- Ongoing
  - Recreation and Parks Advisory Board
  - Volunteer Recreation Councils
- Recent
  - 2014 Department of Recreation and Parks Needs Assessment Survey
  - 2016 Department of Planning Bicycle Pedestrian Survey
  - 2016 Department of Recreation and Parks LPPRP Survey



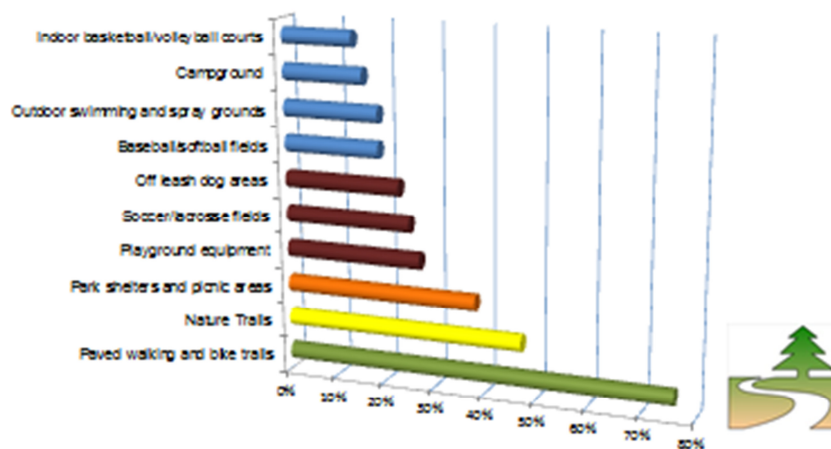
## 2014 Needs Assessment Survey

- 1st completely random needs assessment survey for department
- Survey was conducted between November 2014 and January 2015

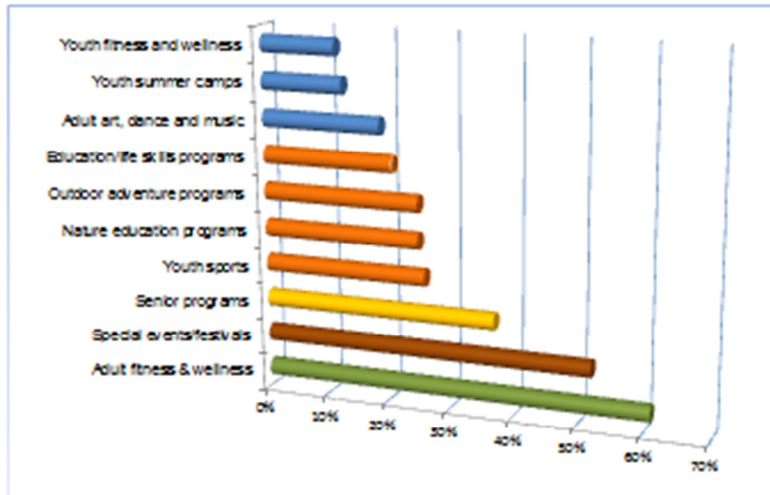
### Sufficient parks and recreation facilities within walking distance



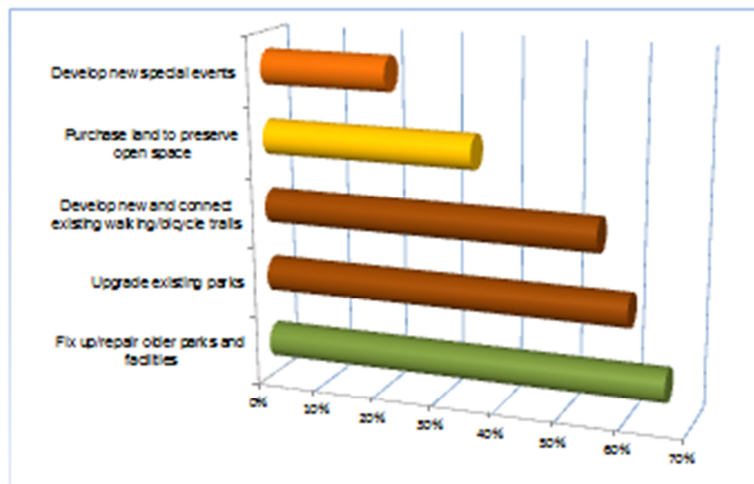
## Top recreation and parks facilities most important to households



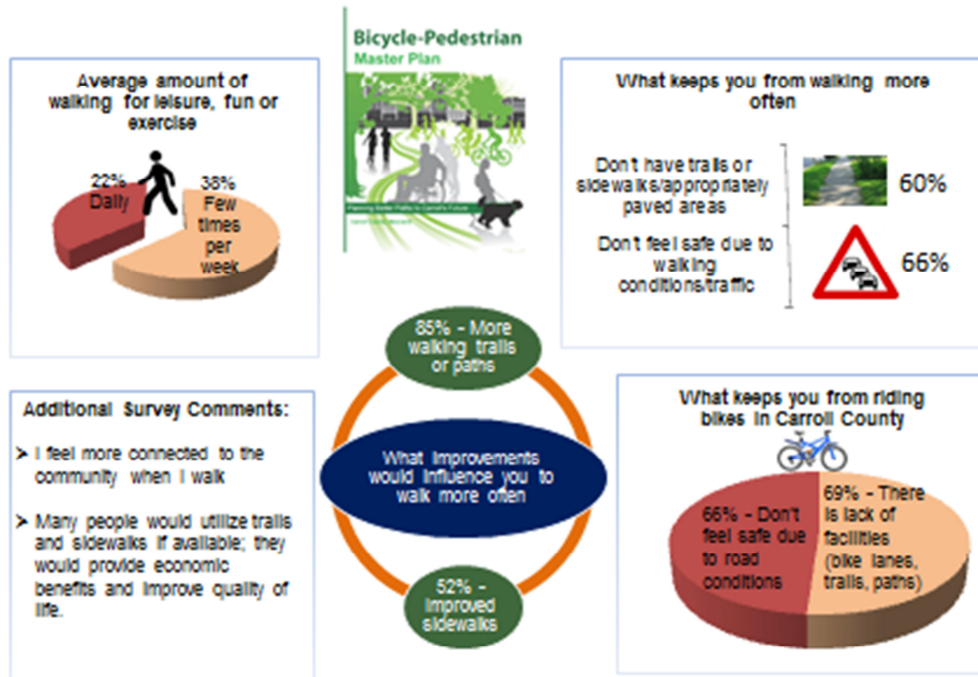
**Top recreation and parks programs most important to households**



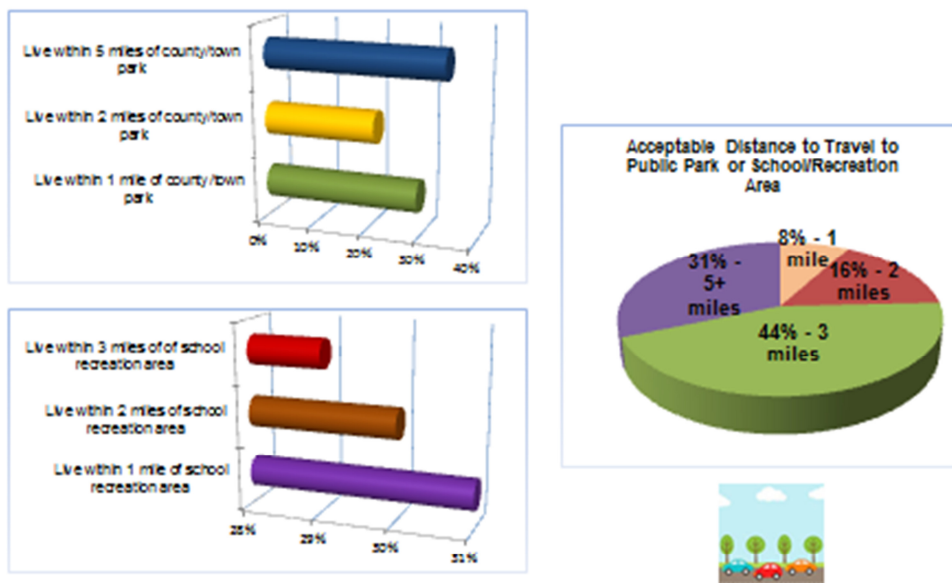
**Actions your household would be most willing to fund with county tax dollars**

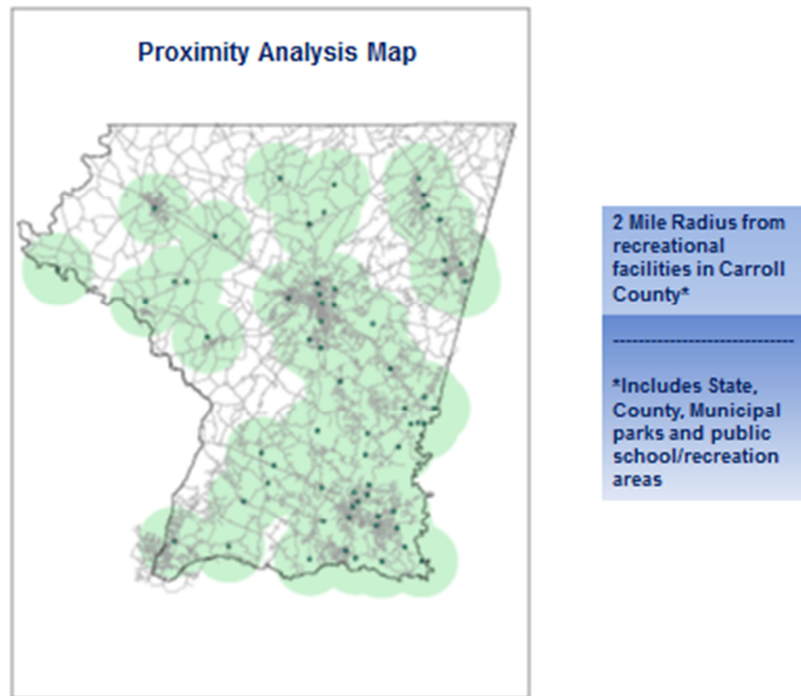


## 2016 Bicycle Pedestrian Survey

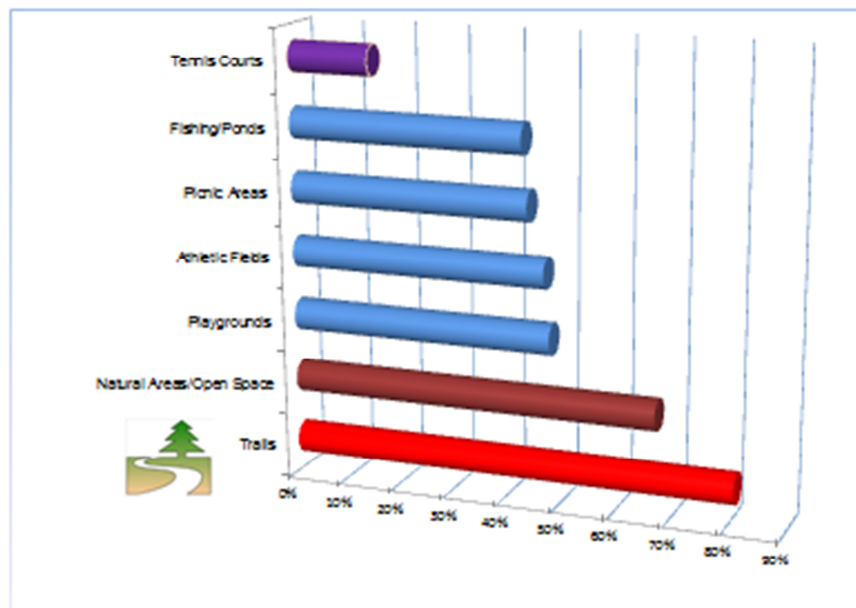


## 2016 LPPRP Survey



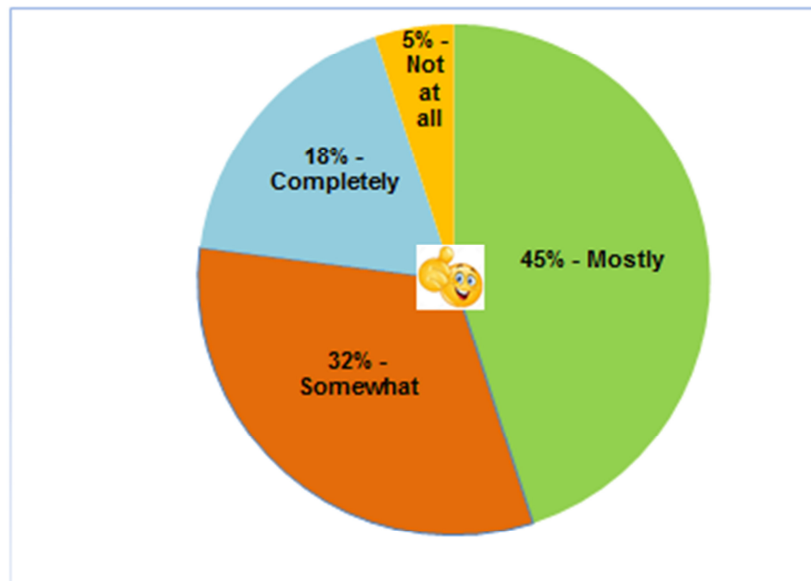


### What park facilities are most important to your household

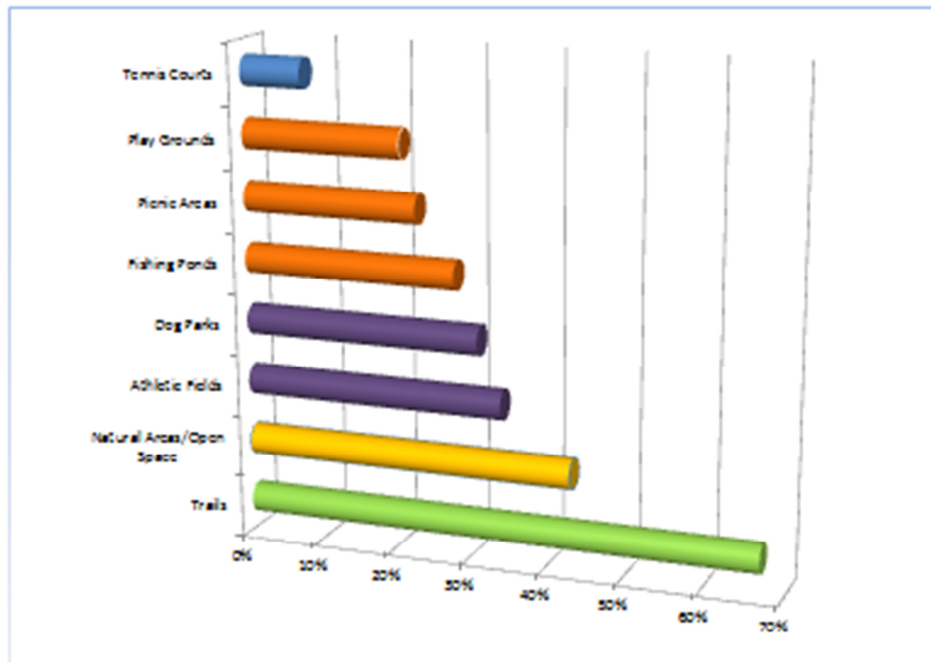




**How well do existing parks meet your needs?**

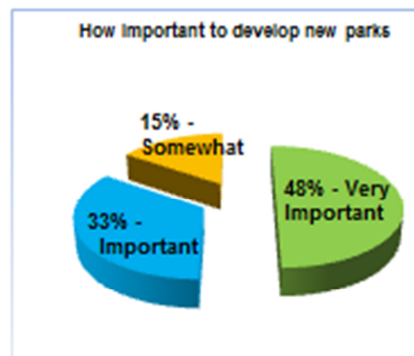
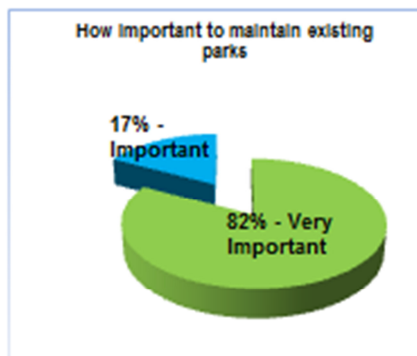
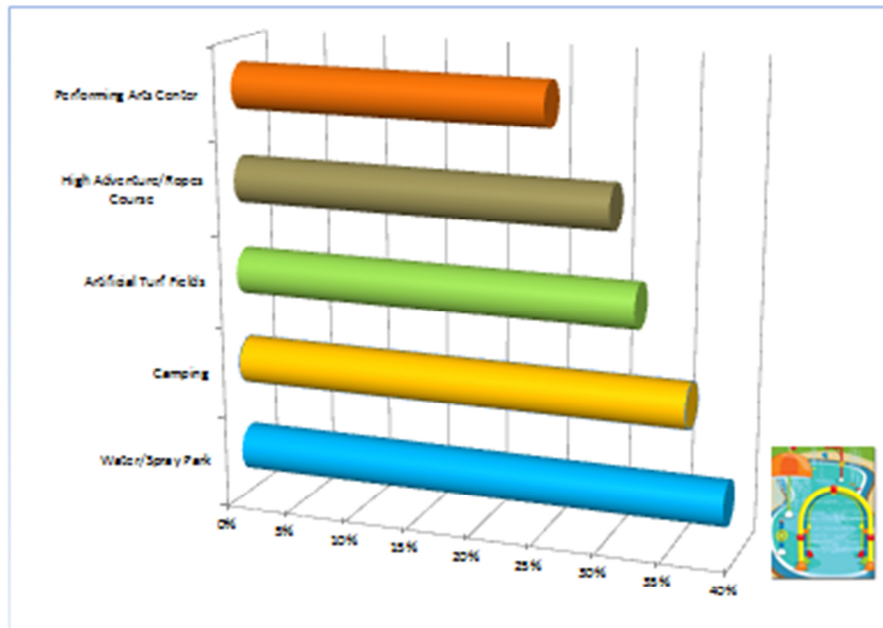


**What type of existing facilities do we need more of?**





### What type of facilities not currently offered do you want



Do you support the development of trail corridors that would provide bicycle and pedestrian connection to park and recreation facilities and other community destinations

93% In Favor



### **Observations**

- Volunteer recreation councils continue to express concerns regarding sufficient number of athletic fields and condition due to overuse
- Youth sports programs continue to express desire for artificial turf fields
- Most requested park amenity continues to be trails which serve all ages
- Significant public support exists both for maintaining existing and creating new recreational facilities
- Lack of sufficient trails and safe areas for walking/bicycling is viewed by residents as a major concern
- While the majority of citizens live within 2 miles of a public park or school/ recreation area, some areas of the county remain underserved and would benefit from additional strategically located facilities
- Less than 20% believe existing current park and recreational facilities completely meet their needs
- Most requested facilities not currently offered could potentially serve as destinations and all offer tourism benefits
- Tremendous support for concept of using trail corridors to connect parks with other community destinations



### **Where do we go from here**

- Work with Department of Planning to incorporate additional info regarding open space, Ag preservation, etc.
- Link elements from LPPRP to master plan updates and Bicycle Pedestrian efforts
- Updated plan to be submitted to Maryland Department of Natural Resources in 2017



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